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Japan

Miyazawa Says Bush's Remarks Not Aimed at Japan

OW0912030991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that U.S. President George Bush's criticism of "economic isolationism" and protectionism in a speech at Pearl Harbor was for domestic consumption, and was not necessarily aimed at Japan.

Miyazawa told reporters he awoke at 4 A.M. Sunday to listen to a radio broadcast of the ceremonies. He said that Bush's "criticisms of isolationism and protectionism may have been made with the domestic (audience) in mind."

Bush said, "To the leaders of Japan in particular I say this solemn occasion should reinforce our determination to join together in a future energized by free markets and free people.

"The time has come for America's trading partners in Europe and Asia and around the world to resolve that economic isolationism is wrong," he said.

Bush, a former World War II Navy pilot who was shot down by the Japanese in 1944, also said he harbors "no rancor" toward Japan or Germany, and praised Miyazawa for expressing "deep remorse" over the Pearl Harbor attack.

Foreign Minister Hails Bush Pearl Harbor Speech

OW0812042291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0408 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Saying he was "deeply moved," Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe expressed appreciation Sunday of U.S. President George Bush's speech in Hawaii marking the 50th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

Watanabe said in a statement that Bush reconfirmed the international, nonisolationist role the United States should play, and stressed the importance of both countries cooperating for the benefit of the international community.

The foreign minister said Japan "deeply regrets" starting the war with its surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and inflicting "unbearable pains and sorrow on many people in the Asia and Pacific region, including Americans."

"We offer heartfelt prayer that the souls of victims of the war in related countries and Japan may rest in peace.

"Japan will renew its resolution that it should not repeat such unfortunate history and continue to positively contribute to peace and prosperity of the international community as a pacifist nation," watanabe said.

Social Democratic Party Head Apologises for WWII

OW0812081191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Opposition Social Democratic Party chairman Makoto Tanabe urged the government Sunday to back up its expressions of regret over Japanese wartime aggression by paying reparations to individual victims.

"Words of apology can carry weight only if followed by deeds," the leader of the No. 1 opposition party told a rally at a Tokyo hotel commemorating the 50th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

Offering a personal apology to "all people who suffered" wartime Japan's aggression, Tanabe said the Japanese people—not just the government—must accept responsibility. Rejecting the government's insistence that legal claims have long since been met, Tanabe urged Tokyo not to shirk its "moral obligations" to the victims.

He appealed for Japan to become a vocal defender of human rights in repressive Asian regimes and step up aid to developing nations.

Although voicing appreciation for former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's expressions last May in Singapore of "regret that Japan inflicted intolerable hardships and grief on people in the Asia-Pacific area," Tanabe said compensation and apologies are "two sides of the same coin."

Refuting the government's long-held position that intergovernmental talks have solved the issue of war reparations, he said diplomatic talks cannot alleviate moral responsibility and Japan's obligations to repay individual victims.

"The real point here is not a matter of legality," Tanabe said. "The real point is a matter of morality."

Tanabe urged Tokyo to emulate the Canadian Government's decision to pay reparations to Japanese-Canadians interned in labor camps during World War II, quoting Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as saying, "compensation must go beyond words and laws."

His comments followed the thursday rejection of individual reparations expressed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who cited both the legal settlement claim and the "increased tax burden" payments would impose on the Japanese people.

Tanabe drew attention to the ordeals of two recently deceased women who shared the hardships the war inflicted on innocent people of various nations—Pong Ki, a Korean forced into prostitution for Japanese soldiers who died alone in an Okinawa flat, and U.S.-born Gwen Terasaki, the widow of a Japanese diplomat who was demoted for trying to avert a war with the United States.

The opposition party chairman said Pong left a reminder of some past deeds Japan should reflect upon, while Terasaki left a message of what future responsibilities Japan should bear.

He quoted Terasaki as saying, "we who believe in peace must make efforts to keep building a bridge and consolidating it" between her own and her husband's homelands.

Saying Pong's October death had [words indistinct] an estimated 100,000 Asian women drafted to provide sex to soldiers, Tanabe rapped the government for denying involvement in the recruitments and said Japan must summon the courage to face historical truth.

"Why is Japan so hesitant to fulfill its moral obligations?" He asked.

Tanabe called on the government to resume work on framing a Diet resolution to "officially apologize for the last war of invasion."

That resolution was recently scuttled by a group of conservative legislators of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who said Japan has sufficiently expressed its remorse.

Among the legislators, Shintaro Ishihara, former transport minister, asked at a party faction meeting, "why does the loser have to apologize to the victor?" He said the last "world war resulted from a confrontation among advocates of colonialism."

Tanabe said Sunday Japan's war responsibility extends beyond the government, saying, "crimes were committed by the state, but it was the people who allowed the state to commit them. As long as we lay all blame on the state, we will never be able to face the past squarely.

"I express sincere apology and sorrow for more than 20 million casualties in the Asia-Pacific countries and among the allied powers," Tanabe said. "My words of apology also go to all people who suffered from Japanese militarism."

Citizens, Survivors Hold Anti-War Gatherings

OW0712131191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Citizens and atomic bomb survivors gathered in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Saturday to make antiwar pledges on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

About 120 "hibakusha," or atom bomb victims, and labor union members attended the gathering sponsored by the Japan Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, or Gensuikin, at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Hall.

The Gensuikin gathering, backed by the Social Democratic Party, also adopted a resolution appealing for people around the world to join together against war. In addition, the resolution voiced opposition to a bill that would allow Japan to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Lee Silgun [name as received], chairman of the Council of Atom Bomb Koreans in Hiroshima Prefecture, touched on the controversial peacekeeping operation bill when he said the overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) is a "criminal act" and that it could not be forgiven.

A 58-year-old hibakusha said people will never forget, and should not forget December 8, a day he hopes will come to be known as an antiwar day.

He also spoke of the tens of thousands of Koreans who had been forced to come to Japan, and who died in the U.S. atomic attack on Hiroshima. He said the Koreans would not have been killed were it not for Japanese aggression in Asia.

In Nagasaki, Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima indirectly criticized Japanese and American leaders for recent remarks indicating that they would not demand or give apologies for the atomic bombings.

"We should not forget there are American leaders who still have the same ideas as those who ordered the drop of atomic bombs, and that there are Japanese leaders who sympathize with their opinions," he said at a peace gathering.

He said the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was "a bad thing," but that the U.S. atomic bombings also violated international law because they caused an indiscriminate massacre.

"I think Japan and the United States should stop criticizing each other and join hands to think about peace," he said.

Also in Nagasaki, Robert Hudson, a former U.S. Navy official who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, said U.S. atomic bombings can not be forgiven because Japan attacked a military facility in Pearl Harbor but the U.S. dropped the bombs on civilians. [sentence as received]

He also said he is angry at nations that have nuclear weapons, calling them irresponsible since they do not know the true terror of atomic bombs.

Hudson, who currently lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, belongs to a Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and tells his war experience to children.

In Tokyo, a group of former Dutch soldiers who were in Japanese POW camps in Indonesia during World War II visited the Foreign Ministry, demanding an apology from the Japanese Government for ill treatment they received at the hands of Japanese soldiers.

The Dutch veterans asked the government to pay 20,000 dollars compensation to each of the former prisoners, said group leader Sjoerd Lapre [name as received].

Makoto Katsura, director of the Foreign Ministry's first West Europe division, said former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed deep regret over Japan's harsh treatment of Dutch prisoners of war when he visited the Netherlands in July.

He also said the issue of compensation have been solved between the governments of Japan and the Netherlands in the San Francisco Peace Treaty and during exchanges at the Japan-Holland protocol.

Tokyo was also the site of several events voicing opposition to the peacekeeping operation bill on the eve of the anniversary.

Citizens' groups in Tokyo also organized several symposiums to reflect upon World War II and seek direction for peace movements in the wake of the more recent Persian Gulf war.

Commemorations Denounce, Glorify Attack

OW0812124691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—People commemorated the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor throughout Tokyo on Sunday—some cautioning against future militarism and others calling the attack "righteous."

Historian Daikichi Irokawa told about 100 people that Japan has protected its war-renouncing constitution since the war and should continue to do so by scrapping a Diet bill that would allow Japanese troops to join U.N. peacekeeping missions.

It is vital to teach correct modern history to a younger generation that "does not even know there was a war," said the Tokyo Keizai University professor and member of the citizens group to think about the present Japan, which sponsored the Shibuya ward lecture.

In Waseda, Shinjuku ward, author Jin Ishitobi opposed establishing a Japan-China friendship peace fund to tackle unresolved problems involving the forcing of Chinese to come to Japan and work during the war.

Ishitobi, who has been tracking down details of the forced labor, said Japan should "spontaneously" extend compensation, even though Beijing ruled out demanding war reparations from Japan "to promote friendship between the two nations."

Expressing the opposite sentiments about the war, some 700 people gathered in Chiyoda ward said Japan's Pacific fighting "was not a war of aggression but a righteous war for self-defense."

Well-known "patriotic" composer Toshiro Mayuzumi called on the participants to consider the "reasons why Japan, a small nation without resources, risked itself to fight strong countries such as the United States and Britain."

Trade Minister Urges Compromise on GATT Talks

OW0912045391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe told business leaders Monday that Japan needs to give ground to bring the global trade talks to a successful conclusion by the end of the year.

In a morning meeting with top officials of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Watanabe said, "Japan should make whatever compromises necessary to help end (the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks) by the end of the year."

With the self-imposed year-end deadline drawing near for the five-year round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Japan has refused to budge on the rice issue although calls are mounting both at home and abroad for opening the rice market to help salvage the stagnant talks.

Turning to bilateral relations, Watanabe also said Japan will no longer be defensive in its trade talks with the United States.

While stressing the importance of friendly ties with Washington, Watanabe said, "Japan has put an end to its defensive trade policy in which it has been swung to and fro by foreign pressure."

"The government wants to tackle, with economic aid, environmental and other problems more independently in the future," he said.

The MITI chief sided with the Keidanren officials, who strongly oppose an extension of a special increase of oil, corporate and other taxes, which was originally created to fund Japan's Persian Gulf war-related contributions. He also opposed delaying a halt to the 3 percent extra consumption tax on automobiles in addition to the ordinary 3 percent consumption tax.

All the special tax measures mentioned are to expire at the end of current fiscal 1991.

The continued special measures beyond the scheduled expiration have been suggested as ways to cover the massive tax revenue shortfall expected for the next fiscal year beginning in April.

"I cannot accept such measures and I have made my stance clear to the Finance Ministry," he said.

Semiconductor Industry Views U.S. Probe Decision

OW0612152391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Japanese semiconductor industry officials expressed displeasure Friday over a tentative U.S. decision to add flash memory chips to a list of items subject to monitoring for possible dumping in the U.S. under the bilateral semiconductor agreement.

The officials received reports that the U.S. Commerce Department made the decision Thursday on the new generation of memory chips, for which the market is expected to expand sharply in the coming years as they are increasingly used in computers.

Japanese chipmakers have been working hard to develop the product for international marketing.

The department's position is that the flash memory chip is a member of the erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM) family, which is subject to monitoring under the semiconductor agreement which went into effect on August 1, 1991, the officials said.

The semiconductor agreement makes EPROMs, as well as dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips, subject to monitoring to determine whether or not they are being "dumped" at less than fair market prices.

The officials said the U.S. authorities are "stretching the agreement in their favor" by including flash memory chips among the EPROMs.

A Toshiba Corp. official said flash memory chips and EPROM use different technologies in erasing data.

Data on the flash memory chip, more advanced than the regular EPROM, is electrically erasable and programmable, allowing for alterations or updates.

The Japanese semiconductor industry will try to have the U.S. authorities rescind the decision by submitting reports on its position, the officials said.

Miyazawa Reacts to Slavic Commonwealth Formation

OW0912022891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reacted cautiously Monday to the formation of a commonwealth by three Slavic republics, warning, "This is not the end of everything."

Miyazawa predicted confusion in the Soviet Union shortly after the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, and Belorussia declared the Soviet Union dead and announced the creation of a commonwealth of independent states.

His chief spokesman Koichi Kato took a wait-and-see attitude when asked about the latest news from the disintegrating Soviet Union.

"We are carefully watching developments," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said. The talks among Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, and Belorussian leader Stanislav Shushkevich will be important for the future of the Soviet Union, he said.

A senior Japanese Government source expressed concern that rapid developments could trigger a strong reaction from the Soviet military. He did not elaborate.

Defense Official on Soviet Nuclear Arms Control

OW0912091791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan is concerned about the management system of nuclear weapons deployed in three predominantly Slavic Soviet republics which announced Sunday the formation of a commonwealth, a top Defense Agency official said Monday.

Akira Hiyoshi, vice minister of defense, told reporters, "I fear the fact that the ownership of nuclear arms moving to each Soviet republic from the central government, which means fresh unstable factors could be created in international society."

The leaders of the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, and Byelorussia declared the demise of the Soviet Union and that they were forming a "commonwealth of independent states."

Hiyoshi also referred to reports that the three republics will control their nuclear arsenals under united authorities, and said, "if such a control system is reliable, it would be preferable."

"I hope the United States and the Soviet Union will be able to make progress in the process of reducing their remaining nuclear arms," he said.

Finance Minister on Soviet Debt Relief Collapse

OW0912105491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Monday that the impact of the collapsed debt-relief agreement between the Soviet Union and industrialized countries must be carefully monitored.

Hata told a press conference that it is too early to tell what will happen to the Soviet debt pact in the wake of the three Soviet republics' declaration of the demise of the Soviet Union. He said the Group of Seven (G-7) countries have no plan at the moment to hold another meeting on the aid issue.

Hata also said the Russian Federation, which is one of the three Slavic republics that banded together in a new union treaty and drove the last nail into the coffin of the Soviet Union, will emerge as the principal negotiator on the debt issue.

The G-7 nations agreed in November to defer Soviet debt payments and provide the Soviets with new loans backed by Soviet gold.

Ministry To Shelve Insurance Coverage for Soviets

OW0912131791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will shelve its planned insurance coverage for Japanese investment in the Soviet Union in view of the virtual disintegration of the union, ministry sources said Monday.

The ministry had planned to insure six Japanese projects in the Soviet Union, the first such case in 12 years, following the country's pledge to extend 1.8 billion dollars worth of trade insurance as part of its emergency aid to the crumbling economy.

But the news that the breakaway republics of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belorussia declared they will form a "commonwealth" of independent states made the ministry have second thoughts, the sources said.

They said the ministry will wait until a credible financial institution like the Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs is established to guarantee debt repayments.

In case of the dissolution of the central government, the ministry will also consider asking republics as well as the federal government to guarantee Japan's trade insurance.

MITI's action came despite a recent debt relief agreement between the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations and representatives from the Soviet central and republic governments involving deferrals of medium- to long-term public debts.

A high-ranking MITI official said, "we cannot help doing this," because the ministry cannot turn to anybody for guarantees on its insurance if the foreign economic affairs bank vanishes.

The sources also said the ministry will study whether republic government agencies and their foreign exchange banks are reliable enough to replace the federal bank.

But many in the ministry perceive that their foreign exchange reserves and personnel resources are quite insufficient at this moment for the ministry to entirely trust them, according to the sources.

Business Leaders 'Puzzled' by Soviet Developments

OW0912081191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japanese business leaders reacted cautiously Monday to the announcement by three predominantly slavic Soviet republics Sunday of the formation of a "commonwealth of independent states."

Gaishi Hiraiwa, Chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said he was puzzled by the "too rapid pace" of Soviet developments. He said a careful watch must be kept on the situation.

The leaders of the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, and Byelorussia declared that talks on a new union treaty had reached a dead end and said they were forming a commonwealth open to all Soviet republics.

Hiraiwa also expressed hope that the proposed commonwealth will lead to Soviet political stability.

At the same time, he expressed concern that the failure of a proposed union treaty could lead to chaos.

Japan should promote humanitarian aid to assist in the Soviet democratization process, while moving cautiously on large-scale economic aid until the Soviet situation settles down, he said.

Rokuro Ishikawa, Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Japan should watch Soviet developments for the time being and should consult with the United States and other industrial nations concerning aid to the Soviet Union.

Japanese traders also expressed surprise over the Soviet developments.

"I expected something of the sort to happen some time or other, but it happened so suddenly," said an official at a major trading company. "But since the Soviet Union has virtually disintegrated already, there's no need for us to do anything special in response."

Japanese trading houses are worried about what the Soviet authorities will do about repaying their debts to Japanese companies—including more than 500 million dollars they owe for imports from large trading companies.

An official at another major trading house said a disintegration of the Soviet Union could lead to increased difficulties in negotiations on repaying debts to Japanese companies.

"We may be forced to establish an office in each republic, should the worse come to the worst," he said.

Kozaburo Daidoji, president of Aomori Nisso Koeki Co. in northern Japan, which was set up last year for trading with the Soviet Union, said he was worried about a "possible upheaval" among people who support continuation of the Soviet Union."

Thai Premier Anan Arrives for 'Unofficial Visit'

OW0812112991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., Dec. 8 KYODO—Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, accompanied by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, arrived in Japan on sunday for a four-day unofficial visit.

Anan is to meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday, Japanese government officials said.

The two leaders are expected to focus primarily on bilateral relations and prospects for peace and reconstruction in Cambodia, the officials said.

On Tuesday, Anan is to meet business leaders and attend a banquet in his honor hosted by Emperor Akihito.

The Thai leader is scheduled to visit Washington after Tokyo.

Meets Miyazawa, Watanabe 9 Dec

OW0912174291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1504 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Thailand's interim Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said Monday Thailand wants to serve as the "center" for international efforts to reconstruct the battered economies of the Indochina region and Myanmar [Burma], according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Officials said Anan, who arrived in Japan on Sunday for a four-day unofficial visit, explained Thailand's ambition and called for Japanese support to that end in simultaneous talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Officials said Anan proposed that Japan and Thailand join forces to undertake various projects once the reconstruction of Cambodia and other Indochinese countries gets genuinely under way, a proposal which he dubbed "triangular cooperation."

He presented Miyazawa with a report entitled "the reconstruction of Thailand-Japan economic relations" which contained several proposals for such bilateral cooperation.

Miyazawa was quoted as saying it is "logical and economically significant" for Thailand to become the center for development activities in Indochina.

Officials said Watanabe inquired as to Thailand's policy vis-a-vis the military junta in Myanmar, which is under intense international criticism for its refusal to relinquish power and its detention of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

Anan, after noting that the influence of Myanmar military strongman Ne Win remains intact, was said to have replied that as a neighboring country, Thailand "cannot ignore the situation" in that country.

Anan, a prominent business leader and former diplomat, is making his first visit to a major industrialized country since he was named head of the interim government installed after a military coup in February.

He met Miyazawa in June when the latter went to Bangkok prior to assuming the premiership.

Anan was accompanied to Tokyo by Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, who is scheduled to hold talks Tuesday with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, which officials said are to touch upon the Cambodian peace and reconstruction process in greater detail.

Anan is the first Thai leader to visit Japan since June 1990, when then Prime Minister Chatichai Chunhawan, who has since been deposed, paid an official visit.

In April, then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu went to Bangkok, helping to rehabilitate Thailand's image damaged by the coup. Anan, met earlier in the day with Kaifu.

On Tuesday, he will attend a luncheon hosted in his honor by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and participate in a series of conferences with Japanese business leaders.

On Wednesday, Anan will hold talks with the heads of the Export-Import Bank of Japan and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).

He will also hold a press conference later Wednesday before leaving in the evening for the United States, where he will have talks with President George Bush and visit the U.N. Headquarters in New York.

Discusses Policy Toward Burma

OW0912165991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1519 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan intends to boost its efforts to convince Myanmar's [Burma] Military Government to restore democracy, a top Foreign Ministry source said Monday.

Meanwhile, ministry officials said Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe sounded out visiting Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun later in the day on his country's policy toward the Rangoon government and was told that Bangkok prefers "constructive engagement" to economic and political pressure.

The source, who requested anonymity, made the comments just prior to Monday's ceremony in Oslo to award the Nobel Peace Prize to detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

He said Japan believes that some of the means employed by Western countries to pressure Myanmar toward democracy and greater respect for human rights are not yielding results.

The source noted that while Japan is just as concerned about the political and human rights situation in Myanmar, "we have maintained our relations with Myanmar from a somewhat different position."

"It's basically a matter of which methods are most effective," he said, suggesting at the same time that Japan may soon reveal some new initiatives.

"Concrete measures are to be considered,"he said. "This is not the end."

Anan was said to have told Miyazawa that Thailand, as a neighbor of Myanmar, "cannot ignore the situation" in that country.

He contrasted his country's policy with that of western nations which have sought to exert pressure on Myanmar, including economic sanctions and political isolation.

A Foreign Ministry official said Japan, like Thailand, is on good speaking terms with the Myanmar junta, in contrast with the United States and many European countries.

That official noted that the ruling junta "is very, very sensitive to pressure from abroad" but is not easily moved in a conciliatory direction.

"That's why, so far, we have tried to keep relations with the Myanmar Government," he said. "By maintaining a dialogue, we hope we can contribute to the democratization of Myanmar."

Commenting on the feasibility of Western economic sanctions, the official pointed out that Myanmar is practically self-sufficient and has significant cross-border trade with China and Thailand.

Last Tuesday, parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa summoned Myanmar's envoy to express Japan's concern over the junta's refusal to respect the results of the May 1990 general elections and to urge greater respect for human rights.

Kakizawa told the envoy Japan wanted the junta to allow Aung San Suu Kyi to leave Myanmar to attend the awards ceremony in Oslo with a guarantee she would be allowed to return.

The move came shortly after a parliamentary group asked Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to suspend Japan's economic assistance.

Government To Maintain 'Dialogue' With Burma

OW0912120391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan intends to keep its lines of communication open to Myanmar's [Burma's] military government in hopes of contributing to democratization there, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The official, who requested anonymity, made the comment prior to a ceremony in Oslo on Monday to award the Nobel Peace Prize to detained Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Japan, the official said, believes that pressure used by Western countries aimed at forcing the government to democratize are "meaningless" since they stand little chance of succeeding.

"It's basically a matter of what methods are most effective," he said. "Concrete measures are to be considered into the future...this is not the end," said the official regarding Japan's tack with the government in Yangon [Rangoon].

Japan, which has suspended talks on future aid to Myanmar, is as concerned about the political and human rights situation in Myanmar as Western countries, the official said.

"We have maintained our relations with Myanmar from a somewhat different position," the official said.

Another ministry official said the comment implies that Japan, unlike the United States and many European countries, is in a better position to exercise influence since it has remained on speaking terms with the the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The official noted that the while the junta "is very, very sensitive to pressure from abroad," it is not easily moved in a conciliatory direction.

"That's why, so far, we have tried to keep relations with the Myanmar Government," he said. "By maintaining a dialogue, we hope we can contribute to the democratization of Myanmar."

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Last Tuesday, parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa summoned Myanmar's envoy to express Japan's concern over the junta's refusal to respect the results of the May 1990 general elections.

Kakizawa told the envoy Japan wants the junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest so that she could personally accept the prestigious peace prize in Oslo.

Kakizawa also told the envoy that the dissident leader should also be guaranteed the right to return without having to face further government harassment.

The move came days after a parliamentary group asked Foreign Minister Michi Watanabe to suspend Japan's economic assistance to the Myanmar Government as a way of pressuring it to reform.

China Asked To Investigate 6 Dec Ship Incident

OW0912090491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan has asked China to look into an incident last Friday in which a ship flying a Chinese flag fired warning shots at a Japanese freighter in the vicinity of a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

They said the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Friday conveyed a request to the Chinese Foreign Ministry that China implement immediate steps to have the incident investigated.

A similar request was relayed the same day by the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) to Chinese maritime law enforcement authorities, they said.

The incident occurred some 220 kilometers north of the Senkaku Islands, referred to in Chinese as Diaoyutai, which are claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan.

MSA officials said an unidentified ship bearing a Chinese name approached the 42,407-ton Henry Hudsen Bridge on Friday morning and fired a number of shots, apparently by pistol.

The boat had disappeared by the time two MSA patrol boats reached the scene shortly afterward, but it was spotted by an MSA aircraft, which did not pursue it.

Officials said there have been 12 cases of harassment of Japanese cargo and fishing boats in the area since March, though they have also occurred sporatically in the more distant past.

They cited one incident in March, six in April, one in May, three in June, and one in July.

Japan administered the tiny unihabited islands of rock and reef before the end of World War II as part of Okinawa Prefecture. The United States returned them to Japan along with Okinawa in 1971.

Chinese and Taiwanese claims to the islands were amplified in the late 1960's when surveyors reported that the surrounding ocean bed might hold large oil deposits.

But in 1978, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping suggested that the territorial issue be left to another generation for a resolution.

Concern Over East Timor Shooting Expressed

OW0712110391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 (KYODO)—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Saturday expressed sorrow about a mass shooting in East Timor on November 12 and called for the Indonesian Government to make an inquiry and punish those responsible for the incident.

Watanabe made the request in a meeting with Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita at the Foreign Ministry, Japanese officials said.

The Indonesian minister pledged to make an inquiry to try and determine if the military acted excessively and said he would penalize the responsible individuals, the officials said.

Watanabe's statement marks the first time that Japan has taken up the case at a ministerial level, though other Foreign Ministry officials have previously expressed concern over the issue.

The Indonesian military says 19 people died in the shooting which occurred at a cemetery in East Timor's capital, Dili.

But eyewitnesses, journalists, and human rights groups have said at least 100 people were killed.

Passing Peacekeeping Bill 'Virtually Given Up'

OW0912165691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have virtually given up on passing a U.N. peacekeeping cooperation bill at the current extra Diet session, informed sources said Monday.

Government and party insiders said the leading opposition Social Democratic Party's refusal to extend the session for a sufficient length of time was a key factor in the decision.

The decision is a setback for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who promised after taking office last month to steer the controversial legislation through the current session.

LDP's Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato met Monday night but could not agree on a strategy for extending the 36-day session which expires Tuesday, the sources said.

The government and ruling party still plan to ask opposition parties to extend the session for some 10 days in order to pass a supplementary budget bill, they said.

The LDP has indicated that it would need at least until December 27 to pass the PKO [peacekeeping operations] bill at the House of Councillors. The legislation was approved in the House of Representatives on December 3.

The bill, which would allow a limited number of Japan's Self-Defense Forces to be sent overseas on U.N. peacekeeping operations, is likely to be carried over to the next Diet session, the sources said.

The Social Democratic Party and the Japanese Communist Party have vowed to block passage of the bill in the upper house.

The centrist Komeito, which supported the bill in the powerful lower chamber, has indicated that further debate on the bill should be deferred until the next session since attempting to ram it through the opposition-controlled upper house might prove counterproductive.

Another centrist party, the Democratic Socialist Party, has opposed the PKO bill and refused to force a vote on it in the lower house's special committee last week.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity that Japan stands to lose the trust of its allies if the government gives up on passing the bill.

Another Foreign Ministry official said passage of the legislation is vital if Japan is to contribute to the peace process in Cambodia.

Doubts Revived on Miyazawa Recruit Involvement

OW0612160891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1527 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Opposition parties on Friday charged that newly revealed documents regarding Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's stock deals with Recruit Cosmos Co. raise doubts on the verity of earlier Diet testimony in which he denied any knowledge of the deal.

Miyazawa's Political Secretary Masao Matsumoto—not the former Secretary Tsuneo Hattori named in Miyazawa's 1988 Diet testimony—remitted 30 million yen to first finance to pay for 10,000 shares offered by Recruit Co., the opposition legislators said.

The new doubts surfaced immediately after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) allowed three opposition parties to examine copies of several documents verifying Miyazawa's 1986 profiteering from the sale of bargain-priced shares of a firm at the center of the Recruit bribery scandal.

Opposition legslators told a news conference following their examination of the documents that they had found a bank remittance slip signed by Miyazawa's political secretary, Masao Matsumoto.

The Sanwa Bank document authorized the sending of 30 million yen to first Finance Co., a Recruit financing subsidiary, to pay for 10,000 shares Miyazawa obtained at a bargain price.

The certificate of remittance was issued by the bank's Shimbashi Branch in central Tokyo and was dated October 15, 1986.

Together with the documents attesting to Matsumoto's involvement, the Miyazawa side attached a supplementary note to the transaction document, reading "Hattori handed over 30 million yen to Matsumoto and instructed him to remit the money."

Political analysts say these documents revive basic questions on whether or not Miyazawa really had no knowledge of the murky transactions with Recruit.

In testimony on December 1, 1988, Miyazawa told a parliamentary committee investigating the Recruit scandal that Tsuneo Hattori, his former senior secretary, personally remitted money to first finance out of Hattori's own personal savings without any knowledge of Miyazawa, and that Hattori's name appeared on the remittance document.

In subsequent testimony later the same month, Miyazawa recanted the earlier testimony and said his name had been used by Hattori in remitting the money to the Recruit subsidiary. He was forced to resign as finance minister on December 9, 1988.

The first examination of the certificates issued by a brokerage house and two commercial banks—three years after the press uncovered the scandal—was conducted by a select group of opposition party executives and legislators in a parliamantary room of the house of representatives.

The LDP reluctantly bowed to opposition pressure to authorize the controversial perusal only after the LDP's failure to clamp down on shadowy fund-raising practices came under a barrage of public criticism following the formation of the new cabinet announced November 4, in which half a dozen LDP legislators tainted by the Recruit scandal were named as ministers.

SDP General Secretary Sadao Yamahana told the news conference, "these documents cannot prove (Miyazawa's) assertion that Hattori bought the shares with his own personal funds."

Komeito Policy Board Chairman Nobuaki Futami told reporters, "our party will demand the Diet subpoena Matsumoto and Hattori as witnesses if Miyazawa gives unconvincing replies to our interpellations (during an upcoming committee session)."

Hattori was indicted on May 29, 1989, on charges of violating the Political Fund Control Law. He was later convicted and fined by the Tokyo district court.

Another document that was unveiled for brief perusal Friday was a copy of a contract—dated September 30, 1986—covering the sale by Recruit to the Miyazawa side of the 10,000 pre-listed shares.

The document carries what appears to be the signature of then Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, as well as Miyazawa's personal seal.

However, together with the contract the LDP submitted and Hattori's statement, in which he states that he fabricated Miyazawa's signature on the document following the model of Miyazawa's real signature on his passport. [sentence as received]

Hattori's statement—dated December 5, 1991—says, "It was I who signed the signature (of Miyazawa) which is carried on the contract document."

Another document examined was a bank certificate—issued by Mitsubishi Bank's Yurakucho Branch—testifying that Recruit remitted a total of 52 million yen into a personal bank account of Hattori on November 5, 1986, through Daiwa Securities Co.

The document itself was dated December 8, 1988, as it was drawn up in compliance with a request to issue such a certificate that day, after the Recruit affairs had come under public criticism and parliamentary scrutiny and just one day before Miyazawa's resignation.

Also offered for examination by the opposition were photocopies of two pages of a bankbook belonging to Hattori, which record the deposit of the 52 million yen remitted by Recruit.

Miyazawa Aide Admits Receiving Illegal Payments

OW0912051591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The office of Fumio Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, received 20 million yen in the general elections in February 1990 from Kyowa Corp., a bankrupt steel-frame maker involved in bogus deals, informed sources said.

Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agencies, also urged Kyowa after the elections to provide some 42 million yen to cover the costs of running local offices in his No. 3 constituency in Hokkaido, the sources said.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Abe, the secretary general of Miyazawa's faction in the Liberal Democratic Party, denied the allegation although he acknowledged receiving 1.2 million yen in annual political donations from Kyowa.

Abe also said he did not give any favorable treatment to Kyowa in exchange for the donations.

Five people, including former officials of Kyowa and Marubeni Corp., a giant trading company, were indicted in August by the Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office in connection with a 6.8 billion yen fraud case. Kyowa went bankrupt in November last year with debts of about 200 billion yen.

The Monday morning edition of the MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported that Abe told the newspaper he had received 100 million yen from Kyowa.

MAINICHI quoted Abe as saying that he is ready to face possible charges of violation of the income tax and political funding laws.

According to the sources, Kyowa gave at least 20 million yen to Abe through the company's Sapporo branch as campaign funds for the general elections. Kyowa employees at the Sapporo branch also were mobilized to work at Abe's Hakodate office in his constituency for the election campaign.

Abe urged local officials of Kyowa to give some 42 million yen annually to cover local office costs when he visited his electoral district in March 1990 after the elections, according to the sources. The demand, however, was rejected by the officials.

In a related development, Justice Minister Takashi Tawara told a Diet committee he thinks that, generally speaking, the prosecutors will take adequate measures if illegal acts are proved.

Tawara made the comment during a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee in response to questions posed by Sadao Yamahana, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, the largest opposition party.

Abe, who has been elected seven times to the House of Representatives, served as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa agencies from August 1989 to February 1990 under Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

In April, Abe became the secretary general of the Miyazawa faction, the second largest in the LDP.

Miyazawa Proposes Lifting Real Estate Loan Curbs

OW0912062591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa vowed Monday to lift curbs on loans related to real estate dealings as early as possible to stimulate the domestic economy, officials said.

The officials said Miyazawa made the proposal at a meeting attended by senior officials of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"I would like to remove it (real estate loan restraint) as soon as possible because I think it will be effective in stimulating the economy," Miyazawa was quoted as telling the session.

The Finance Ministry has controlled growth of real estate loans by banking and nonbanking institutions since April last year in a move to calm upward pressure on land prices.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata reiterated at the same meeting that his ministry will make a decision on the matter after the National Land Agency releases a survey of land price movements.

Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa urged the Finance Ministry to take measures to bring down interest rates on the financial market to keep pace with a cut in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan.

Hata promised to study the matter, the officials said.

Members of Miyazawa's cabinet were divided on the issue involving restraint on real estate loans.

At an extraordinary cabinet meeting Monday, Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo cautioned against removal of the restraints while Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, expressed a positive stance on the issue, the officials said.

Finance Minister Rules Out Debt-Financing Bonds

OW0612153091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata pledged Friday further belt-tightening in compiling the fiscal 1992 budget, but ruled out the resumption of issuing debt-financing bonds to fill the expected revenue shortfall.

Hata, in a speech before the House of Representatives, said the fiscal conditions are bound to continue to be restrictive in the next fiscal year.

The Finance Ministry has estimated the revenue for fiscal 1992 will fall short of the total outlays by 2.2 trillion yen, even with issuance of construction bonds and general-account expenditure capped at the government-set ceiling.

But Hata said the government will hold on to its basic fiscal stance of not issuing debt-financing bonds again, and will conduct a thorough review of expenditures.

On the current economic conditions, Hata said while the pace of expansion is slowing gradually, the economy is in the process of shifting to a sustainable growth with virtual full employment.

Hata also vowed to implement the comprehensive legal and administrative measures to prevent a recurrence of this year's stock and banking scandals, which should help the Japanese financial markets regain confidence.

Meanwhile, the budget committee of the Lower House decided to discuss the fiscal 1991 supplementary budget for two days from next Monday.

As the current Diet session is scheduled to end Tuesday, it is almost certain to be extended.

Ministry Plans Nuclear Power Project Subsidies

OW0712071591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0635 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is moving to help electric power companies find locations for new atomic power plants by providing subsidies to local entities accepting such facilities, officials said Saturday.

The officials said the measure, to be put into effect in fiscal 1992, is designed to make it easy for power companies to find locations for new atomic power generation faclities.

They said the rising antinuclear movement has made it hard for electric power companies to find sites for the plants despite the government's long-term energy supply program aimed at increasing dependence on nuclear power.

The program calls for increasing atomic power generation capacity to 72 million kilowatts in fiscal year 2010 from the present level of 32 million kilowatts.

The MITI plans to provide subsidies to local governments in and around areas selected for new atomic power plants to help revive local industries such as fisheries and farm projects.

After construction of a new power plant begins, the ministry will offer to local governments around the area 10 billion yen annually for five years to finance industrial development projects, the officials said.

The ministry will shoulder up to 1.8 percent of interest payments by local governments on loans for construction of an industrial complex near the power plant, the officials said.

Firms To Buy Breeder Reactor Data From USSR

OW0612134391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—A group of 11 Japanese electric power companies, including Japan Atomic Power Co., has reached broad agreement with the Soviet Government to buy fast breeder reactor (FBR) operation data, industry sources said Friday.

The price and other terms for purchase of the data will be determined through negotiations between representatives of the group and the Soviet Ministry of Atomic Energy and Nuclear Industry, the sources said. However, it is believed that the data will be priced at 100-200 million yen.

This will be Japan's first acquisition of information on nuclear energy technology from the Soviet Union.

The data stems from computer analysis of the operation of an FBR codenamed BN-600, with a generation capacity of 600,000 kilowatts, at the Beloyarskii Atomic Power Plant located at the foot of the Ural Mountains in the western part of the Russian Republic. Among the data to be bought is information on accidents involving the reactor.

The data purchased will be utilized by the governmental Power Reactor Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. in operating Japan's first prototype FBR, Monju, with a generation capacity of 280,000 kilowatts, at Tsuruga in Fukui Prefecture.

The corporation hopes the reactor, which is now in trial operation, will go critical at the end of next year at the earliest.

The Monju and the Soviet FBR are of different types. However, there are many common points, including the nuclear fuel, the fuel sheathing, the fuel rod arrangement formula, and the coolant, the sources said.

Cherenkov Radiation Detector Construction Starts

OW0612123891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Kamioka, Gifu Pref., Dec. 6 KYODO—Tokyo University's Cosmic Rays Institute started construction Friday of what is claimed to be the world's biggest Cherenkov detector at an underground laboratory in a mine in central Japan for astronomical studies and research into elementary particles.

Cherenkov radiation is light produced by charged particles when they pass through a transparent medium at speeds greater than the speed of light.

The new facility at Kamioka, Gifu Prefecture, called "Super Kamiokande," will include a huge cylindrical pool 41.4 meters high and 39.3 meters in diameter, filled with some 50,000 tons of demineralized water, institute officials said.

The institute will install 11,200 multiplier phototubes to detect Cherenkov radiation.

Construction is scheduled to be completed in 1995 at a cost of 8.7 billion yen, the officials said.

The institute currently uses a smaller Cherenkov detector called "Kamiokande" with a pool holding 3,000 tons of water with about 1,000 multiplier phototubes.

This facility succeeded in detecting in 1987 for the first time 11 neutrinos (elementary particles), produced by an explosion of a supernova in a nebula called the large Magellanic Cloud.

The new detector is expected to catch more neutrinos and verify the collapse of a proton as predicted in the grand unified theory.

Mongolia

Singapore Concludes Joint Air Service Agreement

OW0612114491 Beijing XINHUA in English 1030 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Singapore, December 6 (XINHUA)—The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Mongolia (CAAM) has reached a new air service agreement, the CAAS announced here today.

Under the agreement, both Singapore Airlines and Mongolian Airlines will each be able to operate two weekly services with any aircraft type between Singapore and Mongolia.

Mongolia Airlines plans to start charter services to Singapore towards the end of 1992.

A Mongolian delegation led by Mangiyn Dagba, deputy director-general of CAAM, arrived here for consultation with CAAS from December 2 to 4, 1991.

Both delegations were pleased with the successful outcome of the consultations and look forward to greater cooperation in trade, tourism and civil aviation between the two countries, the CAAS said.

This agreement is the second new air service agreement concluded this year. With it, Singapore would have entered into a total of 76 air services agreement.

North Korea

Premier Leaves for North-South Talks in Seoul

SK0912043791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—Our side's delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, left here this morning by train to participate in the 5th inter-Korean high-level talks to be held in Seoul.

Leaving here were the delegation consisting of General Kim Kwang-chin of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; spokesman An Pyong-su who is vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Major General of the KPA Kim Yong-chol and suite members and reporters.

The delegation was seen off at Pyongyang Railway Station by Yun Ki-bok, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, Choe Mun-son, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, and other officials concerned.

Daily Views Upcoming N-S High-Level Talks

SK0912103091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0955 GMT 9 Dec 91

["South Side Must Discard Anti-Peace, Anti-Reunification Stand and Attitude"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—All the fellow countrymen, on the threshold of the 5th inter-Korean high-level talks, want the South side to discard its attitude and stand of pursuing confrontation, war and division, take a peace and reunification-oriented attitude and sincerely approach the talks before it is too late, NODONG SINMUN today says in a by-lined article, and goes on:

The several contacts between delegates of both sides for the 5th inter-Korean high-level talks showed the striking contrast between the stand of the North side for peace and reunification and the stand of the South side toward confrontation and division, disappointing all the fellow countrymen who aspire after reunification.

The whole course of the contacts clearly showed once again who wants national reconciliation, peace and reunification and who seeks confrontation, war and division on the Korean peninsula.

No sooner had the South side returned after agreeing to adopt a joint document at the 4th inter-Korean high-level talks than it staged the provocative "Eagle 91" joint war exercises with outside forces, regarding the same fellow countrymen, its dialogue partner, as the imaginary "enemy". Further, behind the facade of contacts between delegates of the North and South,the South side held a war confab called a "annual security consultative meeting" with the United States, talking about "sanctions" on the plea of fictitious "nuclear development" by the North, and signed even the "wartime support agreement," a document of war to back it. The South Korean authorities agreed with the United States to stage "Team Spirit" joint military exercises on an unprecedented scale and massively introduce sophisticated military equipment, and thus fully revealed their true color as anti-reunification separatists going against dialogue and reunification, anti-national war fanatics who dream of "unification by prevailing over communism" by force of arms.

The prospect of the North-South high-level talks depends on the attitude of the South side.

The entire nation who want peace and reunification of the country will watch the posture and attitude of the South side at the 5th inter-Korean high-level talks.

Our side will make all efforts to bring joy and satisfaction to the fellow countrymen who are keenly watching the 5th North-South high-level talks by adopting at the 5th talks a single document of agreement common to the North and the South which may make a practical contribution to peace and reunification.

U.S. Commander's Remarks Denounced

SK0712054491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—Robert RisCassi, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces occupying South Korea, in a recent interview with a British newspaper abused and slandered us, alleging that the North is "bellicose", "developing" nuclear weapons and has deployed military forces forward, according to a report.

RisCassi's remarks are aiming at misleading the world public to cover up the true color of the United States as a harasser of peace, perpetuate the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea and justify its war provocation moves against the North.

As known to the world people, it is none other than the United States that keeps its troops more than 40,000 strong and nearly one million puppet army in the state of semi-war in South Korea and deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons, threatening us.

The U.S. imperialists have shipped into South Korea even the special warfare unit of the U.S. troops based in the Philippines and faked up the "Wartime Support Agreement" with South Korea some time ago.

They are trying to aggravate the tension on the Korean peninsula still further by expanding the scope of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises to an "unprecedented scale", casting off even the veil of the "defensive nature" of the exercises.

Our Republic unilaterally cut down its armed forces by 100,000 in recent years and sent 150,000 soldiers to peaceful construction sites. Yet, the U.S. imperialists are calling someone "bellicose".

The U.S. imperialist aggressors are getting overheated in the anti-DPRK campaign, resorting to false propaganda. But it will only bring into bolder relief their aggressive nature before the fair public opinion.

Wartime Host Nation Pact Called 'Criminal'

SK0612142691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0007 GMT 4 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 4 December "special article": "An Aggressive and Nation-Selling War Agreement Concocted Through a Criminal Bargain"]

[Text] In defiance of the unanimous objection of all the fellow countrymen who hope for peace and reunification in the country, the U.S. imperialists and the fascist No Tae-u ring have produced another never-to-be-condoned criminal record in the history of U.S.-South Korea relations, which are stained with aggression and sellouts, by signing the Wartime Support Agreement, a criminal war document.

The Wartime Support Agreement, which was concluded under U.S. high-handedness and the South Korean puppets' acquiescence, is a war agreement that is aggressive and treacherous in every way. Without asking for public opinion, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets fabricated the Wartime Support Agreement at a secret bargaining table of aggression and treachery.

Ever since the 17th annual Security Consultative Meeting held in May 1985, the U.S. imperialists began coaxing the puppets into concluding the Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement under the pretext of enhancing the combat readiness of the U.S.-South Korea combined forces in an emergency and of maximizing the effectiveness of support by systematically realigning support agreements already signed. Later, at the 19th annual Security Consultative Meeting held in May 1987, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets signed a memorandum of understanding in which the two sides agreed to start formal negotiations. Then, at 22d annual Security Consultative Meeting held in November 1990, the two sides agreed to conclude the agreement at an early date. The two sides provisionally signed the agreement last 25 July and finally signed the agreement at the just-concluded 23d annual Security Consultative Meeting.

At the end of six years of behind-the-scenes negotiations conducted in secret to avoid the eyes of the South Korean people and public opinion at home and abroad, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have produced an aggressive and sell-out criminal joint work.

The Wartime Support Agreement manufactured by the United States and the South Korean puppets is an aggressive and plundering war agreement. It enables the U.S. imperialists to strengthen their military domination and control of South Korea even further, perfect the preparations for a new war, and, assuming the provocation of a new war on the Korean peninsula as an established fact, commandeer and mobilize all manpower and material resources in South Korea for the execution of the war.

According to Item 5 of Paragraph 100 of the U.S. field operations manual, there are two different kinds of wartime support agreements, one being the host nations support agreement and the other the wartime host nations support agreement.

A host nations support agreement aims at strengthening the deterrence capability of U.S. troops and their capabilities for executing war in areas they are stationed. In other words, it defines the support organizations and their size for the reinforced U.S. troops in the initial period of war in areas where they are stationed in peacetime according to the host nations support agreement in effect. The agreement covers harbors, airfields, roads, railroads, oil pipelines, and communications organizations, and even controls the use of local transportation agencies, laborers, and local police.

A wartime host nations support agreement, however, is an agreement to be signed in preparation for a war footing. In other words, it is an agreement that defines the details and scope of support. This includes facilities of various descriptions necessary for rapid deployment and management of troops to be reinforced during wartime, such as ports, roads, and water supply facilities. It also includes transportation of materials, such as oil and ammunition; offers of laborers; principles of sharing expenses; and inspection of preparedness of these facilities in peacetime, meaning conducting exercises.

Although a wartime host nations support agreement is said to be preparation for a war, covering such issues as the stockpiling of materials, maintaining facilities, and preparing for manpower mobilization in peacetime, along with the expenses spent on all manner of military exercises conducted in peacetime, it is to be applied comprehensively in wartime, as well as in peace. All told, the upshot of a wartime host nations support agreement is to stipulate what facilities and how much material, expenses, and manpower should be offered to U.S. troops not only in wartime but also in peace.

The Wartime Support Agreement, which the U.S. imperialists forced the puppets to sign, was in essence a Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement, but was formally announced as a Wartime Support Agreement with the words "host nation"—meaning South Korea—deleted in order to cover up even slightly the aggressive and sell-out nature of the agreement.

This Wartime Support Agreement stipulates that not only in wartime but also in peacetime, the South Korean puppets should always offer roads, ports, and airfields throughout South Korea at the request of the United States. They should even offer water supplies for the exclusive use of U.S. troops, not to mention public buildings. The South Korean puppets are supposed to stockpile such war materiel as oil and ammunition at all times for the U.S. troops, undertake all manner of advance preparations, such as maintenance of facilities and mobilization of manpower, while shouldering all expenses needed for military exercises conducted in peacetime.

The South Korean paper TONG-A ILBO wrote that the United States not only included in the Wartime Support Agreement about 400 agreements and memoranda on military issues that it had coerced South Korea to sign, including a Munitions Support Agreement and a Munitions Modernization Agreement, but also demanded that the legal standings of these documents be elevated to the treaty level, thereby increasing the burden South Korea is supposed to shoulder.

Although the United States also has signed wartime host nations support agreements with a series of countries, including the NATO member states, none among them is so unequal and submissive as the one that it has signed with South Korea. For example, the one signed by Germany clearly stipulates that the size of U.S. troops to be reinforced in an emergency will be six mechanized and infantry divisions and provides the details of how the two sides will share the expenses incurred from the reinforcement.

In the agreement they have coerced the puppets to sign recently, however, the U.S. imperialists only catalogued South Korea's logistical and munitions support, with no clear mention of a detailed dispatch plan, such as the size of U.S. troops to be reinforced and their arrival times. The agreement stipulates that exercises will be conducted frequently in peacetime to check the status of South Korea's readiness for support, but the expenses will be shouldered entirely by South Korea and that additional support in an unexpected development should also come from South Korea. As a result, the timing and scope of the reinforced troops to be sent to South Korea are up to the United States, and by law the United States can always requisition everything in South Korea, having no need to heed the South Korean people's opinion.

For this reason, even some of the South Korean puppet government officials denounced this agreement, branding it an agreement by which U.S. troops can take over whatever they want any time and anywhere.

Thanks to the agreement, which reflects the master-and-servant relations between the master and its running dog, the U.S. imperialists have been awarded with the right to commandeer and mobilize South Korea's manpower and material resources as they please in the execution of a war of aggression. In contrast, the South Korean puppets have been made to shoulder the unilateral duty to obediently offer whatever the United States requests.

From start to finish, the agreement is a joint document of aggression and treachery worked out between the master and the running dog, aggressors and perpetrators.

The official conclusion of this Wartime Support Agreement has drastically increased the share of expenses for the upkeep of U.S. troops, which amounts to billions of dollars a year, that the puppets should shoulder. Accordingly, not only are the South Korean people destined to be dragged into the battlefields of a fratricidal war through commandeering and conscription, but they also are bound to shoulder an excessive amount of military spending as well.

It is, therefore, no accident that the dissident democratic forces and press in South Korea branded the Wartime Support Agreement as another Ulsa Treaty [the Protectorate Treaty between Japan and Korea in 1905]. They argued that where the Mutual Defense Treaty fabricated between the United States and the puppet Syngman Rhee government had guaranteed the unlimited use of South Korea's territory and territorial skies and waters by the U.S. troops, the Wartime Support Agreement concluded between the United States and the traitorous No Tae-u ring is the same as offering the South Korean people's internal organs to U.S. troops. They then condemned the Wartime Support Agreement, saying that it has helped turn South Korea into a permanent military base serving the United States and to systematically harden the master-and-servant relations between the United States and South Korea.

By signing the Wartime Support Agreement, an ignominious document, not only South Korea's territories and territorial skies and waters, but also the national soul and internal organs of the South Korean people, have been sold as a whole. Thus, the puppet No Tae-u clique has bared in full view its true colors as the modern version of a pro-U.S. flunkeyist group far more flagrant than the five traitors who signed the Ulsa Treaty and as a group of nation-sellers far more crafty than the predecessor dictators.

By coercing the South Korean puppets into signing the Wartime Support Agreement, the U.S. imperialists have revealed that their aggressive nature and strategy toward Korea and Asia have not changed at all, despite the global trends toward detente and disarmament.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Imperialism has not changed in its aggressive and plundering nature and it is actually becoming more crafty with each passing day.

It is known throughout the world that even under today's global political situation in which the cold war structure of the past era generated by the confrontation between superpowers has collapsed and in which disarmament has already been placed on the calendar, the U.S. imperialists are scheming to take the stage in the international community as the one and only dominator. At the same time, they are trying to keep in place the old order of domination and subjugation based on military supremacy.

The U.S. imperialists are now steeped in deliberately aggravating tensions on the Korean peninsula and in creating a flash point aimed at triggering a war there to invent an excuse for retaining their vast military forces and munitions industry and for continuing their military domination in South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists are running riot in preparations for a war after composing what is called 120-day war scenario envisioning even the use of nuclear and chemical weapons on the Korean peninsula. They have not only discussed in conspiracy sanctions against us, under the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear development, but also have even fabricated what is known as the 'Wartime Support Agreement to back it up, thereby disclosing in full view their sinister scheme to aggravate tensions on the Korean peninsula and trigger a new war of aggression, a nuclear war. At a time when the high-level talks between the North and South show signs of progress and when the 70 million fellow countrymen are engaged in a vigorous march toward realizing the reunification in the 1990's, in defiance of this, they signed a criminal document for provoking a war. This is an intolerable act of trampling underfoot our people's will for peace and reunification, as well as a vicious provocation.

It is, therefore, quite natural for all of our fellow countrymen, who hope for national reconciliation and peace, and the public's fair opinion at home and abroad to brand the criminal Wartime Support Agreement as a document for provoking a war aimed at gathering the dark clouds of a war of aggression, a nuclear war, over the Korean peninsula. It is natural for them to condemn and denounce it as a tyrannical violation of our people's aspirations for peaceful reunification.

Now that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have provided preconditions for ferrying to South Korea an unlimited number of the aggressive forces from the continental United States and its overseas aggression bases and have launched an institutional device designed to ensure rapid and satisfactory military actions, tensions on the Korean peninsula have become acute to the extreme, and the danger of war has reached an extremely grave stage.

The prevailing situation requires that all the fellow countrymen in the North and South and abroad to rise up as one in the struggle to do away with the danger of nuclear war hanging over the country and to realize peace in the country and its reunification.

The Korean people who love peace and who are against war will never condone the reckless moves of the U.S. imperialists to trigger a war or the criminal acts of the No Tae-u ring, which is actively in collusion with the U.S. imperialists, and will crush them thoroughly.

The criminal Wartime Support Agreement, which has been fabricated at the bargaining table of aggression and sellout, must be abolished without conditions.

Instead of plunging into a military adventure by coaxing a tiny handful of traitors into joining in fabricating an aggressive war document, the U.S. imperialists should remove the nuclear weapons and aggression forces from South Korea without delay.

The South Korean puppets should halt the antinational criminal act of shoving their fellow countrymen into a holocaust of nuclear war in cahoots with outside forces without delay.

U.S. 4-5 Dec Joint Air Exercises Reported

SK0712044791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command staged joint air strike exercises against North in the air above Wonju, Oeyon islet and Sosan on December 4 and 5 with the mobilization of some 200 fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes in coordination with the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet air force, according to military sources.

On the 4th, the U.S. imperialists sent the Pacific-based KC-135 tanker plane to the air above the West Sea of Korea to stage an exercise of refuelling some 20 fighter-bombers and assault planes in the air.

They brought E-3A early warning plane to South Korea from their overseas base on the 5th to command flying corps and, at the same time, committed photographing and espionage on the North side.

In the two days, they hurled U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, RF-1 and other Army tactical spy planes to the air above the Military Demarcation Line for the purpose of espionage.

On the 5th, tanks of the puppet army fired scores of shells at the opposite side of the River Yimjin and units of 105 mm guns pounded around Chungsa-ri adjacent to the demilitarized zone.

More than ten armed helicopters and transport helicopters belonging to the puppet army staged an air strike, parachuting and war-supplies-dropping exercise that day.

The warplanes mobilized in the aerial military exercises against the Northern half of the country in the South Korean airspace on December 4 and 5 totalled some 1,100.

Envoy in PRC Urges U.S. Response to Proposals

SK0812051791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] A news conference was held in our country's embassy in China on 6 December on the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea. Reporters from Chinese newspapers, news agencies, and radio attended.

The consul at our embassy in China pointed out that our government raised the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea as a prerequisite for guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula and has made sustained efforts to realize this. He recalled that when our government signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty it justly demanded that the United States, as a signatory to this treaty, should discharge its legal duty required by the treaty, withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea, stop the nuclear threat against us, and respond to the issue of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

He said that even though the United States admitted that it has deployed tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea for a real war and revealed its stance to withdraw them, it has not yet taken a practical measure. He added that the United States has not yet responded to our progressive measure as proposed by the DPRK Foreign Ministry on 25 November.

Recalling four new proposals in our Foreign Ministry statement, he stressed that our Republic made the proposals proceeding from the sincere stance to resolve the issue of signing the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

Saying that the United States has not, however, spoken a single word about the proposals, he pointed out that even though a report is circulating that the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea has begun, the words of people who are not master of the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea cannot be believable.

He said that if it is confirmed that the United States begins the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea, we will keep our promise, as we declared. He stressed that whether the issue of our signing the Nuclear Safeguards Accord can be resolved smoothly and early depends on how sincerely the United States keeps its commitment to withdrawing nuclear weapons from South Korea.

He urged the United States to give a positive response to our proposals in the Foreign Ministry's 25 November statement.

Ambassador Expresses Fear of U.S., ROK Attack

BK0812090691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 7—Choe Su-il, ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Saturday expressed apprehension that all the latest weapons, including the Patriots, used by the United States and its allies in the Gulf War, would be used by the U.S. and South Korea in the military exercise code-name "Team Spirit 92" being launched in the spring 92.

Addressing a press conference here, the ambassador recalled that during the last talks held between the prime ministers of North and South Koreas, an agreement had been reached that both the Koreas would undertake military exercises that would remain confined to the scale of defence and not for aggression.

However, he was concerned that the plans of the United States and South Korea to employ weapons that had already been tested in the Gulf War, indicated clearly that the joint military exercise was aimed at attacking North Korea.

The ambassador said the exercise was basicaly against the agreement reached between North Korea and South Korea. He saw this move as an attempt to coerce North Korea into signing the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. He said it was contrary to the earlier pronouncements of President Bush that he was for a peaceful solution to the Korean issue.

He apprehended that both the United States and South Korea were making full-fledged preparations for attacking North Korea. He said the joint military excercise would create obstacles in the way of the next conference of the South Korean and North Korean prime ministers. He said the talks were supposed to create favourable conditions for the reunification of the two Koreas but they were being jeopardised.

The ambassador said if war broke out in the Korean peninsula, it would spread to the entire world.

He said his country supported the stand of the government of Pakistan on converting Asia into a nuclear-free zone.

U.S. Putting More Economic Pressure on ROK

SK0712052291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0357 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. Treasury Department in a report submitted to the international finance and monetary policy small committee of the Senate Finance Committee said that it would continue putting pressure on the South Korean puppets to open the financial and foreign currency markets and watch how they improve the treatment of U.S. banking organs, according to a South Korean newspaper report.

This means an extension of the economic pressure of the U.S. imperialists to intensify their colonial extortion by taking hold of the financial field as well as other fields.

The authorities have taken humiliating steps in compliance with the U.S. imperialists' demand to open the financial market, such as accepting whatever amount of loan if foreign banks want it and permitting them to set up its branches in South Korea.

Daily Views Japan's Overseas Dispatch of Forces

SK0712112791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 7 Dec 91

["NODONG SINMUN on Japan's 'SDF' Dispatch Overseas"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government raised again the "Bill on U.N. Peace-Keeping Activities" which was repealed last year, and passed it through the House of Representatives.

This is intended to get a legal guarantee for becoming a military power and opening a road for overseas dispatch of forces under the signboard of the United Nations, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says, and continues:

It is natural that the Korean and Asian peoples are keeping vigilance against Japan's intention to dispatch military personages overseas merely under the name of U.N. peace-keeping activities. Japan had inflicted innumerable calamities and sufferings upon the Korean and other Asian nations.

Japan ranks third in the world in the military expenditures, and is next to the United States among the capitalist countries.

In the firing power, the "Self-Defence Forces [SDF]" are scores of times greater than that of the past Japanese Army and their combat power is the fifth in the Western world.

In light of these facts, it cannot be viewed that the "Bill on U.N. Peace-Keeping Activities" in Japan is aimed merely at conducting "peace activities".

All facts prove that Japan intends to step up the schemings for a military power and overseas dispatch of "SDF" under the signboard of the United Nations.

If peace is to be ensured in Asia, it is imperative to prevent the arms race and moves to become a military power and create an atmosphere of peace in this region.

The Japanese Government's moves to realise the overseas dispatch of the "SDF" while trying to become a military power are contrary to the desire of the people for peace.

All segments of the peoples of Japan and other Asian countries are now resolutely opposed to the Japanese Government's institution of the bill on overseas dispatch, strongly demanding that it observe the peace constitution.

If Japan repeats the same as in the past instead of taking the road of peace in accordance with its peace constitution, it will again cause disasters only.

Kim Il-song Receives Chinese Friendship Official

SK0712105391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Gan Yetao, vice-president of the China-Korea Friendship Association, and his party on a visit to Korea.

Present there were Chong Chon-ki, chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, Kim Chae- pong, deputy director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He was presented with a gift by the guests.

He gave a luncheon for the guests.

Culture, Sports Delegation Leaves for PRC

SK0712105191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—A delegation of the DPRK State Commission of Physical Culture and Sports headed by its Chairman Kim Yu-sun left here today for a visit to China.

It was seen off at the airport by First Vice-chairman of the Commission Pak Myong-chol and councillor of the Chinese Embassy here Bai Rui.

Special Envoy Kim Yong-sun Arrives in Cuba

SK0712141591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Comrade Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee who is visiting the Republic of Cuba as a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, arrived in Havana by airplane on 6 December.

At the airport, the special envoy was greeted by Fernando Ramirez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and general coordinator of the Department of International Affairs of the party Central Committee, and other personages concerned.

Pak Chung-kuk, our country's ambassador to Cuba, and embassy staffers also came out to the airport.

Vice Premier Meets Vietnamese Trade Delegation

SK0712044091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0402 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 6 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon met and had a friendly conversation with the Vietnamese Government trade delegation led by Le Kim Lang, vice- minister of commerce and tourism, when it paid a courtesy call on him today.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Kang Chong-mo and Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Nguyen Van Trong.

South Authorities Put Police on Emergency Alert

SK0712052891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities set one month from December 4 to January 4, 1992, as a "period of emergency duty for public peace and orders" and ordered the police throughout South Korea to be on emergency alert duty, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They issued orders to mobilize all the police forces and equipment to intensify check-up, search and patrols around campuses and streets, wholesale arrest of those on the "want" list and tighten guard around buildings of the puppets' organs and foreign institutions.

With the new year in the offing, they are trying to get rid of the elements opposed to them.

KCNA Reviews 7 December Pyongyang Press

SK0712055691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il- song received U.S.-resident

Moon Sun-myung, president of the World Peace Federation, and his party and a report that Moon Sun-myung presented gifts to President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Printed in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on the occasion of the national day of Cote d'Ivoire.

An article of NODONG SINMUN tells that Comrade Kim Chong-il energetically led officials to discharge their honourable mission and duties for the party and the revolution.

Given in the daily are messages of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the 25th congress of the Communist Party of the USA, the 8th congress of the New Communist Party of Great Britain and the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia on its 20th founding anniversary.

Humus soil carpeting on paddy-fields and irrigation projects on non-paddy fields are in full swing in rural communities of the country, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article titled "To Thoroughly Guarantee Right To Work Is Important Superiority of Socialism".

Carried in the press are an account of the sojourn of U.S.- resident Moon Sun-myung, president of the World Peace Federation, in Pyongyang and news that he hosted a party and his speech at the party.

The Guinean president and Tunisian prime minister met the Korean ambassadors to their countries, according to the press.

An inter-governmental agreement on trade and payment between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Vietnam was signed in Pyongyang, says NODONG SINMUN.

The daily reports that a large number of literature carrying anti-U.S. content were distributed in Chunchon City, Kangwon Province of South Korea, the South Korean Council of Christian Churches made public a declaration on human rights demanding the abrogation of the "national security law", and chief officials of organizations under Chongnyon (The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) issued statements denouncing the "Wartime Support Agreement".

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged war exercises against the North, according to the daily.

Seen in the daily is a photo of the list of the Koreans who were forced to Japan by the Japanese imperialists and the dead. [sentence as received]

The daily carries an article titled "Indiscreet Warmaniacs Will Not Avoid Punishment" regarding the outcries of the United States and the South Korean authorities that they will take a powerful counter measure towards us.

The daily in an article denounces the moves of Japan for overseas dispatch of the "Self-Defence Forces".

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary condemning the U.S. imperialists' intensified arms buildup in South Korea.

Seen in the press is news that training "day of national defence" was observed in Cuba, the 7th meeting of the Lao Supreme People's Assembly took place, the Islamic leader of Iran called for countering the threat of the United States and the Malaysian prime minister exposed an attempt to justify intervention in internal affairs in the establishment of "new world order".

Given in the press are different views of the states concerned about the second session of the Middle East peace conference.

Dailies observe the national day of Cote d'Ivoire.

"U.S. Imperialists' Arrow of Aggression Turning to Korea" is the title of an article of NODONG SINMUN.

KCNA Reviews 9 Dec NODONG SINMUN

SK0912053291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in different countries.

According to the daily, an anthology "On Great President Kim Il- song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" Vol. 1 was brought out in Japan.

The Nepalese paper BUMIKA carried the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Young Men and Women, Be the Young Vanguard Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader", says the paper.

It gives nearly one whole page to an article about deep trust and loving care shown by President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il for Yi Kyu-hwan, secretary of the Yongjon-ri party committee of Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province.

Econews of the daily includes reports about the brisk construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex and innovations being effected in the production of coal and timber.

It is reported in the daily that the Korean Documentary Film Studio produced the film "Towards the New

Morning of Reunification" showing activities of delegates of Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung, who had come across the wall of division to Pyongyang in defiance of the moves of separatists to participate in the second pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

It informs the readers that the secretary-general of the National Executive Committee of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru met the DPRK ambassador, and Korean girl Song Hwa-son carried away the gold in the women's 1,500 metre event at the first speed-skating championships for Asian Cup.

The South Korean news of the paper includes reports that voices demanding reunification are ringing out louder from among the people and Kang Ki-chong, executive chairman of the preparatory committee for the "National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification of the Nation", outlined the character and action program of the alliance.

Red Cross organizations of 22 countries including Cuba and Vietnam which attended the eighth meeting of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies called for active participation in the international rescue campaign for the return home of old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, according to the daily.

It runs an article exposing the South side's anti-peace, anti- reunification stand revealed in the course of the contacts between the delegates for the fifth North-South high-level talks.

Seen in the paper are reports that the French-Korean Friendship Association in its bulletin expressed solidarity to the Korean people's cause of national reunification and that the DPRK's stand on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula clarified in a statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry was supported abroad.

The international news of the daily includes reports that the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran accused the United States of manipulating Israel behind the scene, the Indonesian president called for increasing the role of the Non-Aligned Movement, the general secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa stressed the need to defend the banner of socialism, and the Arab League expressed solidarity with Libya in connection with the Pan-American airliner explosion case.

The paper introduces economic news from China and Cuba.

It carries an article denouncing Israel's construction of "settlements" in the Golan height.

South Korea

Fifth Round of High-Level Talks To Open 11 Dec

Agenda Previewed

SK0912022391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea will hold the fifth round of their high-level political talks Wednesday and Thursday in Seoul and their prime ministers will attend.

The North Koreans—seven delegates including Premier Yon Hyong-muk, 33 support personnel and 50 journalists—will arrive Tuesday morning across the border in the Demilitarized Zone that divides capitalist South from communist North.

Top of the agenda will be the contents of the agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, and exchange and cooperation the two sides agreed to produce at the previous talks, in Pyongyang in October.

The two Koreas have held several working-level discussions on the contents of the agreement at the truce village of Panmunjom since the fourth round, but were unable to narrow differences of opinion on a few major points.

South Korea wants the agreement to document the establishment of liaison offices in Seoul and Pyongyang, replacement of the armistice pact by a peace formula, mutual opening of newspapers, radio and television, military confidence-building measures for non-aggression, and formation of a committee for travel, telecommunication and trade.

North Korea seeks an agreement in the form of a declaration and opposes the inclusion of substantial measures in it.

If North Korea does not back down, the South may show some flexbility and suggest compromises, Seoul officials said.

The talks will proceed at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel in southeastern Seoul. The first-day session will be open to the press but the second-day session will be closed. The North Koreans will return home Friday morning through Panmunjom.

Deputy Prime Minister Cites 'Key Issue'

SK0912131091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1246 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung said Monday that Pyongyang's development of nuclear arms would be a key issue in the fifth round of the inter-Korean prime ministers talks this week in Seoul.

"It is not only an international concern but also a practical threat to our survival. We must discuss it in the talks," said Choe, who is also the minister of National Unification Board.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik in Wednesday's keynote speech is to "strongly" urge North Korea to give up development of atomic weapons and embrace outside inspection of nuclear facilities, Choe told reporters at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel, the venue for the talks slated for Wednesday and Thursday.

Considering that North Korea started recently to take a positive turn toward outside inspection, he said, it could not be denied that Pyongyang might try to seek a compromise before the February meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors.

'Concessions' Likely

SK0812055791 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 8 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] If North Korea makes clear its willingness to accept nuclear inspection at the fifth round of North-South high-level talks to be held 10 December, the government is considering making major concessions to the North on the contents of the North-South agreement, agreeing to suspend the 1992 Team Spirit exercise, it was learned on 7 December.

The government adopted this policy because it considers that as long as the international issue of nuclear inspection of North Korea remains pending, the adoption of the North-South agreement is practically impossible.

It seems that the government adopted this policy in case the fifth round of North-South high-level talks fails without a frank exchange of opinions, leading to North Korea's postponement of the sixth round of talks because of the Team Spirit exercise next spring.

A high-ranking government official, commenting on this issue, said: "The issue of nuclear inspection of the North and the adoption of the agreement of the North-South high-level talks are linked. The government is not in a position to bring the North-South agreement to a conclusion unless North Korea makes it clear that it will accept nuclear inspection."

The government official said: "The government's greatest interest is North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspection; therefore, the government will discuss with the United States the possibility of suspending the 1992 Team Spirit exercise as requested by the North Korean side."

The government official then added: "North Korea will also be aware that its negotiation with Japan for the normalization of relations will be difficult unless progress is made in North-South dialogue. There is a considerable likelihood, therefore, that North Korea will express its willingness to accept nuclear inspection in the behind-the-scenes contact during the talks."

It was also learned that the concession the government is considering is part of the North-South agreement on the conversion to a peace system: to accept the term "between the North and the South" and the expression "the Armistice Agreement shall be observed until such time as the state of peace settles."

As for the clause on exchange and cooperation, the government is reported to have decided to discuss the establishment of the implementing organization, such as the committee for travel, communication and economic exchange, in the exchange and cooperation subcommittee.

It was learned that the government formed a policy on the establishment of the permanent liaison secretariat—to establish it in Panmunjom instead of Seoul and Pyongang, as North Korea has been insisting.

In view of the North Korean objection that the mutual opening of newspapers, radio, and television is aimed at reunification by absorption, the government intends not to insist on this.

North To Sign Accord at Start of Weapons Removal

SK0712030391 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 7 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Chon In-chan, ambassador at the North Korean mission to the international organizations in Vienna, met with ROK reporters on 6 December (Vienna time). Referring to the preconditions for North Korea's signing of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord, he said: "North Korea will sign the accord immediately after the United States begins withdrawing nuclear weapons from the ROK and officially informs North Korea of this." He also said: "The nuclear facilities and nuclear bases in North and South Korea will be inspected after the DPRK-U.S. talks decide what facilities will be subjected to simultaneous inspection and when and how and whether the International Atomic Energy Agency will participate in the inspection."

However, Ambassador Kim declined to comment directly on whether North Korea will allow inspection of its facilities suspected to be facilities for nuclear development, adding: "That can be decided during the DPRK-U.S. talks."

No Tae-u Views Chances for North-South Summit

SK0912120291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1142 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday that he expected Pyongyang would accept Seoul's proposal for inter-Korean summit talks some day as situation in and out of North Korea changes.

No said, in an interview with the Seoul Broadcasting System, South and North Korea were facing many problems of which solutions should be discussed and sought in the summit level.

"The summit is the shortcut to the recovering of confidence between the South and the North," No told the third television network that started transmissions on the day.

Asked on relations with China, the president said he hoped to set up diplomatic ties and visit Beijing during his tenure of office.

"Considering China's position and other things, we need not hurry up with the rapprochement," he said.

No acknowledged the need to shake up his cabinet saying a new cabinet line-up was needed for tackling pressing national issues with a sense of conviction. He, however, did not specifically reveal when it would be made. "A shakeup can be made if the need arises," he said.

No, also the president of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], said DLP's presidential candidate would be determined through a "democratic" procedure specified in the party charter.

Russian Parliamentary Leader Arrives for Talks

Says Yeltsin To Visit in 1992

SK0812134091 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] It appears that Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, will visit our country next year. Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation who came to our country today at the invitation of Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly, said that Yeltsin will be able to visit the ROK next year and that he hopes relations between the ROK and the Russian Federation will further develop.

Arriving at Kimpo Airport this morning, Khasbulatov said that the Russian Federation is presently in a very difficult situation. He noted that he hopes relations between the ROK and the Russian Federation will develop based on the successes already attained between the ROK and the Soviet Union.

Chairman Khasbulatov said that Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, will be able to visit the ROK next year and that the Russian Federation will fulfill its international duties under new circumstances. He stressed that the Russian Federation is opposed to North Korea's nuclear development.

Chairman Khasbulatov will stay in our country until 11 December. During this period, he will pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u and will meet with the speaker of the National Assembly, representatives of political parties, relevant government officials, and figures from business circles. He will discuss measures for promoting relations between the two countries with them. He is also scheduled to tour industrial sites.

Opposes North Nuclear Arms Development

SK0912092191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russia has ordered a probe of North Korea's nuclear development program and delivered a message to Pyongyang expressing firm opposition to its nuclear arms regime, Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian parliament, said here Monday.

It was natural for Russia to assume the international obligations of the Soviet federal government, Khasbulatov said, suggesting his government is ready to take over Moscow's debt to South Korea.

Khasbulatov arrived Sunday at the invitation of speaker Pak Chon- kyu and met with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok for nearly an hour in the afternoon.

The Russian Foreign Ministry and parliament's International Affairs Committee recently sent a message to North Korea opposing its nuclear arms development plan and the republic plans a public hearing on the issue soon, he was quoted as telling Yi.

The Russian parliament ordered a probe by authorities into the progress of North Korea's nuclear arms development program, he said.

On repayment of the 3 billion U.S. dollars in South Korean aid to the Soviet Union, Khasbulatov said President Boris Yeltsin and other leaders thought it a "matter of course" to undertake debts incurred by the Soviet Government.

It would be appropriate for Seoul to transfer its relations with the Soviet Government to Russia, he said.

Calling South Korea an important partner, he said Yeltsin's Seoul visit in the latter half of 1992 would greatly improve bilateral ties.

Khasbulatov met with Pak earlier in the day and they agreed to inaugurate a Korea-Russia parliamentary cooperation committee in the near future.

The committee would seek exchanges between the parliaments and the Korean and Soviet embassies would settle the details of its inauguration, Pak's aides said.

Pak asked the Russian leader to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear development and to give his special attention to improving the status of some 100,000 ethnic Koreans in his republic.

Khasbulatov said his government was preparing measures to improve the general living conditions of its Korean population.

Government To Discuss Soviet Economic Aid Plan

SK0712040291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—Comprehensive inter-ministerial discussions on South Korea's 3 billion-U.S.-dollar economic aid package to the Soviet Union will begin next week, after the economic attache at the embassy in Moscow gives a report, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Saturday.

"This does not mean that the South Korean Government is reconsidering its pledge to go full ahead with the 3 billion dollars in aid," Yi said.

Yi Kang-tu, the attache, will be in Seoul Dec. 8-14 to give an overall report on Soviet political developments, the economic situation and the relationship between the federal and republic governments, Yi said in his weekly press briefing.

The government will convene a meeting of assistant ministers from the Foreign, Economic Planning, Finance, Trade and Industry Ministries and the Fisheries Administration, he said.

Korea and the Soviet Union agreed on the package in January. Korea has made a 1 billion-dollar cash loan and 800 million dollars of tied-loan exports are on the way.

The remaining 1.2 billion dollars in exports is divided between the next two years.

Korea is still watching for developments between the Soviet federal government and the republics and plans to wait before recognizing the Ukraine's independence, the minister said.

"Our situation is different from western nations, and we will act with prudence" he said.

Kim Tae-chung Warns Against Japanese Militarism

SK0712011491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung has expressed keen concern over what he sees as Japan's reemergence as a military power and hoped for continued deployment of the U.S. forces in South Korea to sustain present balance of power in Northeast Asia.

Asked to comment on Japan's military buildup, in a forum organized by the Kwanhun Club of senior journalists at the Korea Press Center yesterday evening, he billed it as a "very bad omen" that a Japanese bill passed by the House of Representatives this week will allow the dispatch of Japanese troops overseas.

"Japan's move to send the Self-Defense Forces abroad in the name of contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping operations is a very bad omen. My worry is particularly serious as I sense that the United States is encouraging Japan to beef up its military strength," he replied.

Kim, chairman of the unified opposition Democratic Party, said he would render Koreans' general fear about Japan's "rearmament" to U.S. President George Bush when he meets him during his visit to Seoul early next month.

He reminded panelists and participants in the three-hour-long debate of his speech to Moscow University in September that Asian countries are severely anxious about a series of Japanese measures to step up military muscles. Most of East Asian countries were victims of the Pacific War which it waged 50 years ago today.

"The United States should keep stationing its troops here not only to deter North Korea's invasion of the South but to prevent potential power vacuum in Northeast Asia which Japan might attempt to fill with its expanded armed forces," he reasoned.

Kim renewed his call for North Korea to sign the full-scope Nuclear Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency without any condition but made clear his objection to any military options aimed at forcing the staunchly communist regime to open its nuclear facilities.

"Following the U.S. President's nuclear initiative, President No Tae-u has recently declared his renunciation of all nuclear weaponry, thus diffusing North Koreans' worry over nuclear presence in the South," he observed. "The North should thus allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities instantly."

"But," he went on, "The exercise of military power should be avoided as it might lead to North's military counterattack and eventually to a hot war. There are too many things to do including multilateral diplomatic drive and the U.N.'s role before resorting to the ultimate means."

He was generally pessimistic about the future political fate of North Korean President Kim Il-song and his 42-year-old Stalinist government.

"Since the North has controlled the closed society tightly, it seems very hard for it to take the path to reforms. It is likely to collapse in the long run. We have to chart out a contingency plan in case of any abrupt, drastic change in North Korea."

Some panelists focused on rumors that he and his family have made money in the course of nominating his party's parliamentary candidates in the past elections. He denied them flatly, attributing the circulation of the rumors to the military governments which used to try to defame the lifelong oppositionist.

A large part of the spacious hall was occupied by DP lawmakers and party executives in the face of his nomination for next spring's polls.

Mongolian Envoy Speaks on Economic Cooperation

SK0912060491 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 9 Dec 91 p 21

[Excerpt] "As a result of the Mongolian president's visit to Korea in October, I believe the cooperation between Korea and Mongolia was raised to a higher level in the political, economic and intellectual sectors," said Perenleyn Urjinlhundeb, ambassador of the Republic of Mongolia.

He was assigned on April 23 to the embassy in Seoul which opened in February 1991, almost one year after normalizing relations.

Speaking fluent Korean, the 44-year-old ambassador stressed that Mongolia, which is pursuing a market economy, welcomes Korean participation through exclusive investments or joint ventures.

"I believe economic cooperation in livestock-processing fields such as leather, fur and meat which are abundant in Mongolia will be helpful to both sides," he said.

As for the problem of transportation which hampers trade between the two countries, the normalization of Korea-China relations is the key factor, he said.

Aviation talks for a direct Korea-Mongolia route were reportedly initiated by the foreign ministers of both countries during the visit of the Mongolian president in October.

In addition, he said he thought that a golf tour packaged with visits to historic sites was a promising business as more than 70 percent of his country is grassland, making the construction of golf courses much easier than in Korea.

On the other hand, Mongolia wants Korean-made daily necessities and home electronics appliances which are lacking in most former communist countries making the transition to a market economy.

"Introduction of foreign capital is essential for Mongolia's current move toward privatization of state-run companies and the development of private small and medium-sized companies," he said.

In this context, the EDCF loan ($10 million) and $1 million grant Korea pledged to offer is essential for the economic development of Mongolia. Mongolia is planning to use the loan to foster the development of its small and medium-sized companies.

He also hinted that empty military bases abandoned by the Soviet army could easily be converted at low cost to production facilities due to their convenient locations near roads, railroads and airports.

Furthermore, Mongolia is scheduled to establish free trade zones at its borders with the USSR and China.

Among Korean companies, Daewoo is the most active in investment in Mongolia. Daewoo's working-level team is in Mongolia to study investment conditions for the production of glass, knitted goods and tools.

Samsung is also pushing ahead with plans to construct a syringe plant in a joint venture with a Mongolian company. [passage omitted]

Businesses Enter Vietnam for Joint Ventures

SK0812005791 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 6 Dec 91 p 7

[Text] Economic exchange between the ROK and Vietnam is becoming vital as Vietnam's open economic policy to enter a full-scale phase has begun in earnest.

Accordingly, trade and personnel exchanges between the ROK and Vietnam, which broke down in 1975 when Vietnam was defeated, are increasing greatly. The number of ROK enterprises moving into Vietnam via subcontracts for processing products or joint ventures is also increasing rapidly.

Samsung Group sent a 10-member survey team, including vice president Yi Pil-kon, to Vietnam on 20 November for a seven-day market survey and investment counselling.

President Kim U-chung of the Daewoo Group visited Vietnam twice in May and June to open negotiations on several joint ventures, including auto, textile, and hotel businesses. Daewoo Company president Yun Yong-sok led an economic mission to Vietnam on 30 November and is in negotiations there.

In addition, Kia, Halla Heavy Industry, and Pyoksan are in active negotiations to move into Vietnam.

Economic exchange between the ROK and Vietnam resumed in 1986 when Vietnam declared a breaking away from the closed and planned economy under its new reform policy and recently entered into a full-scale phase.

Trade between the two countries was $54 million in 1987, increasing to $154 million in 1990. It is expected to reach $200 million by the end of this year.

Because the two countries' industrial structures are different, the main exports to Vietnam are end-products: textiles, fertilizer, communication equipment, and TV sets. The main exports from Vietnam to the ROK are primary products: coal, tin, and seafood.

ROK enterprises' recent vitalized investment in Vietnam gives far more weight to subcontracts centering around needlework, which became a "limited industry" due to the high wage at home, than full- scale joint ventures.

Lucky-Gold Star signed a subcontract with a sewing factory located in Ho Chi Minh City (old Saigon) to produce clothing, including T-shirts. About 20 enterprises including Daewoo, Kolon, Bethel, Samdo, and Hyodong are leasing work, using the low wages in Vietnam.

As an example of ROK joint ventures, Seyong International started three joint businesses in tobacco processing, automobile parts, and hotel construction with Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. If we count only the cases formally approved by the governments of both countries, there are six joint ventures, including the above three, and the total investment for them is $41 million.

Eight local groups, including Hyundai, Samsung, and Korea Petroleum Development Corporation, organized a consortium and are deeply concerned about investment in resource development like the on-going (Big Bear) oil exploration project in the sea near Vietnam.

On the other hand, eight large groups including Kolon, Samsung, Hyundai, Daewoo, and Ssangyong were given approval to open branch offices in Ho Chi Minh City in 1988 and make all efforts to expand trade and collect investment information. By the way, Samsung has a branch office in Hanoi, too.

North Scientists in PRC Develop, Test Missile

SK0712051991 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 7 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] In addition to North Korea's on-going development of nuclear weapons, it sent a large number of scientists to China to develop a medium-range missile and the delivery system for nuclear weapons, and it had successfully developed its own missile.

Defense experts said on 6 December: "North Korean experts successfully tested a medium-range multiple-warhead missile, with a range of 800 km, at a nuclear rocket base in Yinchuan, Gansu, a northwestern province in China."

These experts also said: "North Korea developed this ultramodern missile with Chinese assistance. Also, China lent a launching pad for the test."

They also said: "North Korea has sent 90 military and weapons experts to the nuclear rocket base in Yinchuan since 1988 and learned how to test nuclear weapons and launch missiles from China." They also said: "Given the fact that North Korea successfully developed and tested the missile three years after it had sent military experts to China, North Korea must have acquired technology for testing nuclear weapons to a great extent."

They also said: "In addition to its development of the medium-range missile, North Korea sent 230 Army, Navy, and Air Force weapons experts to a naval base in Dalian on the Liaodong peninsula for training in technology for developing ship-to-ship, surface-to-surface, and surface-to-air missiles or to develop them."

North Korea previously deployed an improved generation of Scud missiles, with a range of more than 500 km, north of the DMZ for actual combat purposes, thus including the entire Korean peninsula within their range. This was followed by the development of the "Nodong No. 1" surface-to-surface missile whose range is 1,000 km, which includes Japan within its range.

The military experts said the multiple-warhead missile, whose range is 800 km and which North Korea successfully tested, will pose a new threat to security on the Korean peninsula and the balance of power in northeast Asia.

North Korea developed the multiple-warhead missile, a strategic delivery system, with nuclear weapons development in mind. Compared to the single-warhead missile, the multiple-warhead missile is a very fearsome weapon. Also, if it is launched in Pyongyang or Wonsan, it can reach not only anywhere on the Korean peninsula but also Kyushu and some areas of Japan's Honshu.

ROK Defense Ministry officials declined to confirm this. However, the latest edition of SENTAKU, a prestigious Japanese monthly magazine, reported this.

Kim Il-song Said Seeking To Meet President Bush

SK0712034391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—North Korean President Kim Il-song met with the Rev. Moon Sun-myung, head of the Unification Church, for the first time Friday in Pyongyang and agreed to promote the reunion of separated families on the Korean peninsula from next year, the vernacular SEGYE TIMES reported Saturday.

Kim asked Moon to arrange a meeting with U.S. President George Bush, saying he would visit Washington if the Bush administration invited him. Moon's response was not known. [passage omitted]

The South Korean Government says it is looking into Moon's activities in North Korea if they violate the law since his stated purpose of visit was to meet his relatives.

Moon and Yun Ki-pok, vice chairman of the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, issued a 10-point joint statement Thursday in which they said that nuclear energy should be used for peaceful means only and nuclear arms should not be manufactured or deployed on the Korean peninsula.

Kim endorsed the statement, affirming that North Korea would use nuclear energy solely for peaceful means and would accept international inspection of its facilities, according to the SEGYE report.

North Korea's nuclear program has emerged as one of the hottest concerns worldwide with the West believing it is already capable of producing an atomic bomb or could be in a couple of years.

Kim said North Korea welcomed investment by everyone, including overseas resident Koreans.

"I agree on the grand principle that Tongil business group (headed by Moon) will support peaceful economic projects in our country except for military supplies," Kim was quoted as saying.

Moon asked Kim to meet the South Korean president and decide a reunification formula and Kim responded: "If I can discuss and decide a reunification formula by meeting the South Korean president, I will meet him."

The Kim-Moon talks were attended by Yun Ki-pok, deputy premier Kim Tal-hyon on the North Korean side, and by Moon's wife, Han Hak-ja, SEGYE TIMES president Pak Po-hi and his wife, Yun Ki-suk. [passage omitted]

Church Leader Warns Against Attacking North

SK0912071791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0436 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—Unification Church leader, the Rev. Moon Sun-myung, one of the world's most prominent anti-Communist crusaders, ended a week-long visit to Pyongyang Saturday by warning the United States that North Korea was not like Iraq.

"North Korea is not a second Iraq. The United States cannot be too careful in taking any action that might threaten the survival of the Korean people," the SEGYE TIMES quoted him as saying upon arrival at Beijing international airport.

Moon was apparently referring to the possibility of a surgical air strike on North Korean nuclear facilities by the United States. U.S. officials and scholars openly say that North Korea would invite preemptive strikes by Washington if it failed to comply with calls for outside inspection of its facilities.

"I visited North Korea with the earnest hope of producing significant momentum in enhancing progressive dialogue and exchange between the South Korean Government and the Northern authorities," Moon was quoted as saying at the airport.

The SEGYE TIMES dispatch from Beijing said Moon told reporters he had proposed support for North Korea's economic development on the understanding that economic help is of crucial importance in solving the problems of communism and in realizing world peace.

Moon was in North Korea from Nov. 30 to Dec. 7 along with his wife, SEGYE TIMES president-publisher Pak Po-hui and other church officials. The vernacular SEGYE TIMES is under the control of the Unification Church.

Seoul's anti-Communist government said Moon's activities in North Korea went "beyond the approved boundary" and reports say banks virtually stopped making loans to the 16 companies of Moon's Tongil (Unification) Group.

The decision was made Friday in an emergency meeting prompted by the government's displeasure over a joint statement issued Thursday by Moon and Yun Ki-pok, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, banking sources said. [passage omitted]

The government here said it was scrutinizing Moon's activities and statements in the North to see if it could find any violation of the National Security Law, which is the legal ground to punish sympathizers of North Korea and people who make visits to the North without the government's approval.

A bank official denied that putting a halt to loans was a sanction against the Tongil (unification) Group.

"We are just strengthening our financial management. The government has expressed discontent about the Rev. Moon's activities in North Korea and it is highly likely the Tongil Group will face grave changes on its management," he said.

Rumors persisted over the weekend that the government was urging banks to suspend loans to Tongil and let an affiliate go bankrupt. The group is estimated to have a combined bank loans of 850 billion won.

Seoul To Seek Seat at UN Disarmament Conference

SK0712035691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0216 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea will apply for a seat in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Saturday.

The formal application would be submitted by the Korean Embassy in Geneva, where the conference has its headquarters, early next week, Yi told a weekly news conference.

The four-member conference has a vacancy created by East and West Germany becoming a single member after unification.

The conference has agreed in principle to add four seats.

Membership is approved by consensus, and the results of conference negotiations are reported to the United Nations First Committee on Arms Reduction.

Both South and North Korea have had observer status at the conference since 1981. Ministry officials said North Korea was also likely to seek membership.

No Tae-u Upset by Speculation on Cabinet Shakeup

SK0912083191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u, upset by reports on an expected cabinet shakeup, Monday said: "Speculative news reporting is no good to any one, but damages the credibility of newspapers and broadcasters.

"These days, I learn the date and contents of my own cabinet reshuffle from the papers. Reports based on guesses not only damage their credibility but keep officials from working hard and bring disorder to society."

Reports of factional conflicts in the ruling party made the people uneasy and should be corrected, he added.

Further Military Command Reshuffles Carried Out

SK0912113591 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Report by Han Chun-hyop from the Defense Ministry]

[Text] On 9 December the government carried out a major reshuffle of the military including the promotion of five major generals to lieutenant generals, and nine brigadier generals to major generals. It also appointed Kim Chin-son, present commander of the Capital Defense Command, to Deputy Chief of Staff of the ROK Army.

As a follow-up to the 29 November personnel action involving the top military commanders including the appointment of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Kim Chin-son, commander of the Capital Defense Command, was promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff of the ROK Army; So Wan-su, commander of the Special Forces Command, to commander of the Defense Security Command; An Pyong-ho, chief of the personnel division of the Army Headquarters, to commander of the Capital Defense Command; and Kim Hyong-son, chief of staff of the Second Army, to commander of the Special Forces Command.

Kim Chin-son, newly appointed Vice Chief of Staff of the ROK Army and So Wan-su, newly appointed commander of the Defense Security Command, are only being transferred to a new position while An Pyong-ho, newly appointed commander of the Capital Defense Command and Kim Hyong-son, newly appointed commander of the Special Forces Command have been promoted as of today from major general to lieutenant general.

In addition, five major generals including Kim Hyong-son, chief of staff of the Second Army, were promoted to lieutenant general, and nine brigadier generals including Kim Kyong-il, deputy chief of the education department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were promoted to major general. This will bring about a series of personnel actions in the corps commanders and division commanders. This will result in the biggest personnel action in which over half of the high-level generals who are of a higher position than major general will change seats.

'Yearender' Views 1991 Economic Difficulties

SK0712044391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0034 GMT 7 Dec 91

["Yearender"]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea, which experienced economic difficulties for the second year in a row in 1991, ushers in the new year with a mixture of hope and apprehension.

"The past year has been tough on most of us," says Kwon Yong-ku, president of Changmyung Engineering Co., a small industrial machinery concern. "And I'm afraid 1992 will be more or less the same.

"But do we have a choice?" He asks rhetorically in a telephone interview. "I guess we'll have to hang in there and work harder to help the country's economy turn around."

To recover from economic anemia and revive the spirit and confidence shown in their glory days of the '70s and '80s, Korean businessmen and workers are trying everything from a frugality campaign to a national movement to work more, produce more, export more and save more.

Kwon is typical of the small Korean entrepreneurs who have struggled through this year with rising prices and wages, a credit squeeze, protectionism and a host of other problems.

Many economists and analysts do not share Kwon's gutsy optimism.

Saying that they don't see light at the end of the tunnel yet, they predict there won't be any substantial economic recovery for two or three years.

"Our economic situation in the coming year will be precarious at best since we are going to hold four national elections," says an analyst at a government-financed economic research center, who wanted to remain anonymous.

Although President No Tae-u and other government leaders have urged politicians to be prudent in their use of campaign funds, he says, a lot of money will be unleashed on the country, pushing the already rising prices of commodities higher.

In any case, analysts say they base their gloomy outlook for 1992 on the country's worsening international balance of payments deficit, which amounted to 2.18 billion U.S. dollars in 1990. This year's deficit stood at 11.26

billion dollars at the end of September and is expected to be above the 10 billion-dollar level for the first time in history.

And chances are very slim for the nation's balance of payments to turn into the black in two or three years, they add, as exports continue to sag due to serious erosion in the competitive strength of Korean business enterprises.

The competitive edge Korea enjoyed for decades has suddenly disappeared in recent years because of rising wages, low productivity, tougher competition from developing nations such as China, Malaysia and Thailand, and neglect for high technology development.

Korea built its economic might mainly on its cheap but hard- working and capable labor force in the '70s and early '80s.

But as the nation began to move toward full-fledged democracy with No's election in 1987, the pressure put on manufacturers and other employers by aggressive unions for higher wages increased sharply.

In 1989, for instance, average pay for Korean workers rose 25.1 percent, or some 150 percent higher than the growth in productivity, which rose only 11.7 percent.

The unit labor cost increased 17.1 percent in the same year, compared with increases of 0.6 percent for Japan and 3.7 percent for Taiwan.

The unit capital cost also rose steadily since 1987 as huge amounts of money flowed into real estate for speculation. As a result, the credit crunch for manufacturers got worse with real interest rates going over 20 percent this year.

Another factor that worked against the Korean economy was the foreign currency exchange system. It was switched to what is called the market average exchange rate from the multicurrency basket system. The new system gave the Korean won a much higher value than its real purchasing power.

The exchange rate was 723.40 won to one U.S. dollar in the first half of this year, compared to around 807.00 won needed for Korean exporters to make a profit, according to the Korea Foreign Trade Association.

To make things worse, the nation, preoccupied with the 1988 Seoul Olympics, paid scant attention to the construction of infrastructure. A result was serious delays in shipments of export goods because of traffic and port congestion.

Korean exporters lost 500 billion won in 1989 and 700 billion won in 1990 due to harbor congestion alone, a shipping source says.

According to the Economic Planning Board, the cost of physical distribution including transportation and loading fees accounted for 17.3 percent of total Korean exports, compared with 7 percent for the United States and 11 percent for Japan.

The most serious problem of all, however, has risen from the ignorance or neglect, at best, by Korean manufacturers of the urgent need for the development of high technology in their given industry.

Most manufacturers concentrated on making and selling low-tech, labor intensive products, but when they lost their competitiveness to developing countries with these commodities they had nowhere to turn.

Korea's dependency on foreign technology, which is said to be around 21.1 percent or three times more than that of Japan, is now a serious problem for many companies as advanced nations are increasingly reluctant to offer help for fear of future competition.

Faced with this predicament, some large companies, especially the chaebol (family-owned conglomerates), instead of spending their money on research and development, invested it in land for quick profits, sending real estate prices through the ceiling and having a bad effect on the nation's economy.

Under these adverse circumstances, however, some government officials believe that the country's trade will improve gradually next year, although they concede that it is difficult to expect the trade balance to turn black in two to three years.

The officials say that the country could improve its balance of trade if it could check the growth of imports, as exports grew 2.8 percent in 1989, 4.2 percent in 1990 and 10.6 percent in the first nine months of this year.

But they admit that they could not turn the economy around in one or two years because of basic flaws in the nation's industrial structure, which takes long time to reform.

Once the reform is carried out, however, Korea could compete against advanced nations in many fields as it would be able to produce value added or technology-intensive products through its own research and development and sound management, the officials say.

Government To Lower 1992 Economic Growth Target

SK0712132091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1242 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—The government will pursue stability-oriented economic policy next year, lowering the goal for economic growth to 7 percent in real terms from this year's 8.5 percent.

Economic ministers agreed Saturday that efforts should be made continuously to improve the international balance of payment, stabilize prices, curb imports and expand exports.

Inflation rate should be held down at 8 to 9 percent level and the current account deficit be contained at 8 billion dollars, the ministers agreed in a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu.

They decided to encourage large business companies and businesses in the service sector to keep their pay raises under 5 percent. Small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies will be advised to control pay hikes in single-digit rates, considering the scheduled 9.8 percent hike for the public servants.

The meeting was attended by finance, agriculture-forestry- fisheries, trade-industry, construction, energy-resources, and labor ministers, the governor of the Bank of Korea, the president of the Korea Development Institute.

They agreed that the flow of liquidity should be redressed in a way that helps divert more funds from the service sector to export- related businesses in view that curbing trade deficit has become the most pressing challenge facing the nation's economy. Emphasis of the economic policy should be placed on the restoration of international competitiveness to the manufacturers, they said.

The current account deficit is likely to exceed 10 billion dollars this year.

The economic ministers agreed that export environment is likely to improve next year, setting the export growth target at 11-13 percent, up from 10 percent this year.

They decided to contain the growth rate of imports at 11.5 percent.

To curb domestic demand, the ministers agreed, construction of new dwellings should be restricted at between 500,000 and 550,000 units next year, down from this year's 600,000.

Facilities investment next year is expected to slow down with its growth rate declining to 11-12 percent from this year's 12.3 percent.

To help alleviate labor shortages in the manufacturing sector, the number of new employments in the construction sector will be restricted at 32,000, down from this year's 218,000.

Driftnet Vessels To Be Refitted After UN Ban

SK0612014391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Dec 91 p 9

[Text] Driftnet fishing vessels will be refitted as vessels for squid jiggling and mackerel pike fishing as the United Nations is certain to pass a resolution banning driftnetting in the high seas next week.

A spokesman of the National Fisheries Administration [NFA] said yesterday that a U.N. committee was expected to adopt the resolution Thursday (Dec.4) in New York prior to endorsement at the general assembly of the U.N.

He said his administration will work out a relief program for driftnet fishermen based on recommendations by the industry.

A total of 140 fishing vessels are doing driftnet fishing, named the wall of death by environmentalists, in the open seas of the North Pacific.

The fishing vessels are the lifeline for 50,000 people including 4,000 seamen in the country.

The NFA said aged vessels will be scrapped and be used as artificial reefs for fish in coastal waters.

On the other hand, some of refitted driftnet fishing boats will be dispatched to squid fishing beds off Argentina to reduce probable damages resulting from the U.N. resolution.

The resolution draft calls for scrapping half of the current vessel fleet and reduction of squid fish catches by June next year and total abolition of the driftnetting on Jan. 1, 1933.

The spokesman said his administration will need some 70 billion won to compensate fishermen for the damages.

Last June, the Taiwanese government provided 170 million won to 800 million won each to fishermen scrapping driftnet fishing vessels.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Lumut Base Offer to U.S. Explained

BK0712131591 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Dec 91 p 5

[Text] Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak said the Government's offer to the United States to use the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) facilities at Lumut was a commerical proposition.

He said the offer to repair and maintain U.S. ships, if accepted, would help create business opportunities as well as jobs. It would also enable the RMN to acquire the latest defense technology.

He said the Malaysian offer was different from that of the Philippines which allows the Americans to set up a base and station military personnel and hardware.

Datuk Sri Najib said the Government would ensure that the offer would not result in Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s interference in the country's domestic affairs.

"The Government will take stern action if there is evidence that foreigners are trying to influence our internal politics," he said when replying to points raised by during the debate at the committee stage on the proposed financial allocations for his Ministry.

Datuk Sri Najib said the U.S. had confirmed that the Lumut base had the expertise to handle the jobs.

He said skilled workers from overseas might be brought in if there was a shortage of local workers but this would depend on the workload provided by the U.S.

On the Malaysia-Singapore defence cooperation, the Minister said the two countries would conduct a joint military exercise next year.

He said it was one of the confidence building measures to enhance relations between the two countries and reduce the suspicion between the two armed forces.

"The exercise will help boost better ties besides enhancing reigonal security," he said.

On the decision to build an airstip on the Spratly islands, he said the government would go ahead with the project despite protests from a foreign country.

He said the matter would be resolved throught diplomatic channels.

"We will do the same for Pulau batu Putih (which is being claimed by Singapore). This is being undertaken by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] Wisma Putra. Any settlement reached will not compromise our sovereignty," he said.

Official Says China Remains 'Threat'

BK0712044491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0349 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Singapore, Dec 7 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia regards China as a long-term potential friend although her external threat perception, especially towards communist states in the region, has shifted in emphasis.

The head of Strategic Studies of the Malaysian Armed Forces Defence College, Abdul Razak Abdullah Baginda, said China was still seen as a threat to Malaysia's security despite the fact that relations between the two countries had improved significantly over the last few years.

He said while Malaysia's perceptions towards the Soviet Union and Vietnam had changed significantly, the same could not be said of China.

He said that this precaution was based on two interrelated factors, the issue of conflicting claims in the South China Sea and the republic's military build-up.

Abdul Razak said China was expanding her military at a time when most major and regional powers were cutting back their forces.

"There is little doubt that the Chinese are trying to build a blue-water Navy, to have the ability to project power far beyond its shores and if need be, to use its Navy as an offensive platform," he said.

He added that China's South Sea Fleet had developed Hainan Island as one of its forward bases not only to project power in the South China Sea but also as a staging base for their ships patrolling the area.

Besides possessing a powerful fleet that includes 915 combatants and 93 submarines, China was developing her own aircraft carrier.

"There are some outstanding issues which will remain problematic in the future such as the question of the conflicting claims in the South China Sea," he said, adding that China had been most consistent in its claims.

Abdul Razak said although China's call for joint development projects in the conflicting territories should be encouraged, it was not prudent to be taken in by such overtures based on China's past track record.

"Future Chinese leaders may change their minds and bring back the issue of sovereignty, which they have warned is not negotiable. [no end quote as received]

Embassy Likely To Open in Phnom Penh in Jan

BK0912032591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0303 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will set up its embassy in Cambodia soon, most probably next month, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said here.

He also said that the Malaysian representative is expected to be announced next month.

"We have selected a candidate and are awaiting approval from the Phnom Penh government," he told reporters Sunday.

He said Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials are holding talks with Cambodian officials on the choice of the Malaysian representative.

Chilean Minister Visits Defense Minister Najib

BK0912075091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0703 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Chilean Deputy Defense Minister Marcos Sanchez Edwards Monday called on Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak here.

Edwards, who arrived Sunday on a 10-day visit, also had talks with Deputy Defence Minister Wan Abu Bakar Wan Mohamed.

While here, he is scheduled to visit an aircraft servicing and maintainance company and a naval shipyard.

Conditions of Entry for Chinese Citizens Viewed

BK0712133191 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Dec 91 p 5

[Text] Chinese nationals must adhere to the conditions laid down by the Malaysian government if they want to visit relatives here or to tour the country but these are not obstacles in efforts to boost tourism.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry Datuk Abdul Raman Suliman said security and other factors had to be taken into account when setting conditions for the entry of Chinese nationals into Malaysia.

"Probably, in years to come we might be flexible and will be able to attract tourists from China," he said when replying to points raised during the debate on allocations for the Ministry under the 1992 Budget proposals.

He added that China had yet to be included in the Ministry's priority list in attracting foreign tourists.

During the debate Mr Lau Dak Kee (DAT [Democratic Action Party]-Ipoh) alleged that the strict conditions laid down by the Malaysian government were preventing Chinese nationals from visiting Malaysia.

Datuk Abdul Raman, when replying to other points, said the Lion dance was not included in this year's national day celebrations because the organisers wanted to change the programmes yearly.

"This does not mean that the lion dance will be excluded in future national day celebrations," he said.

On the proposal to establish a Malaysian Chinese Cultural City, he said the DAP Members of Parliament raised the issue because they wanted to gain political mileage.

He said the proposal was made by the [Malaysian Chinese Association] MCA which has been asked by the Government to to make a review of its recommendations.

"But the DAP now wants to make it a racial and political issue.

Ratification of Human Rights Conventions Urged

BK0712111891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 7 (AFP)—The Malaysian Bar Council, representing local lawyers, Saturday urged the government to free political detainees and ratify U.N. covenants guaranteeing citizens their political, social and cultural rights.

Param Cumaraswamy, a human rights activist, said Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed should move to ratify the covenants to honor commitments made by Commonwealth governments at the Kuala Lumpur and Harare summits.

Mahathir chaired the Kuala Lumpur summit in 1989 and also attended the recently concluded Harare summit where heads of governments reaffirmed the importance of respecting human rights.

They also urged those countries which had not done so to ratify Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stemming from the 1948 U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Cumaraswamy, chairman of the Bar Council's human rights committee, told a conference that the Malaysian Government should also repeal all domestic laws inconsistent with the two covenants.

All developed nations have good human rights records. As we are committed to a developed status we must begin to improve our state of human rights and one way is to ratify these U.N. instruments with commitment and conviction," he said.

The Malaysian Government has used security laws to detain politicians and others considered threats to national security without putting them on trial.

In one of its biggest operations in recent years, the government detained more than a hundred politicians, trade unionists, social activists and religious workers in October 1987, saying the detentions were necessary to head off racial violence. All these detainees have since been released.

Cumaraswamy said violations of human rights in Malaysia could no longer be considered domestic issues.

"Such violations are construed as violations against humanity in general and the violating government is accountable to the international community," he said.

The government recently approved the registration of a National Human Rights Society which held its inaugural meeting here Friday.

Cumaraswamy said the society would, among other things, promote and encourage respect for human rights.

Palm Oil Production, Exports To Increase

BK0912092691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0827 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia controls the world palm oil market and exports some 50 per cent of its production to 140 countries, Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Chua Jui Meng said Monday.

He said production was expected to go up next year because the United States had agreed to stop its anti-palm oil campaign as recent studies had proven that it was the best oil in the world.

Speaking to reporters, he said the studies also showed that the oil was low in cholesterol and contained a substance that was good for health.

Chua said China was now the biggest importer of the oil and that many Chinese use it for cooking. Other big importers of palm oil were Pakistan, India, and the West Asian countries.

"The anti-palm oil campaign has evidently failed and Malaysia no longer has any problem in exporting palm oil to Western countries, including the United States itself," he added.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh MIA Office Planned for Early 1992

BK0712061991 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0452 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 7—Cambodia and the United States were very pleased with the outcome of their cooperation in finding the American servicemen still listed as missing in action in Cambodia.

In a talk in Phnom Penh on December 5, Mr. Nuon Saret, deputy minister of interior and president of the MIA Committee of the State of Cambodia, and Mrs. Blythe J. Thomas, head of an MIA delegation of the United States, expressed their mutual interest in accelerating efforts in finding the MIA remains in the country.

They said they would strengthen their cooperation in this field and that an MIA office would be set up in Phnom Penh in early 1992.

The Government of the State of Cambodia has already handed seven sets of MIA remains over to the United States.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Mission

BK0812092891 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] On 5 December at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo met with a U.S. Senate delegation led by Blythe J. Thomas, U.S. senator [title as heard], to discuss a number of issues concerning the exploration and search for American soldiers missing in Cambodia.

Also present at the meeting were Lieutenant General Nuon Saret, deputy interior minister and president of the MIA committee; Elizabeth Connell Sullivan, U.S. senator [title as heard], and other members of the U.S. delegation. Mr. Dirk Hutchins, special representative of the U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, was also present.

Officials Pledge To Help Recover U.S. Remains

BK0712070091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] A report from Phnom Penh said Cambodian officials yesterday assured a U.S. mission that they would do whatever they can to help recover American remains in Cambodia.

Charles Twining, U.S. permanent representative to the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, said the Cambodian officials pledged to cooperate with the Unites States to resolve the issue of American soldiers missing in Cambodia during the Vietnam war.

Twining added that there were 80 civilian and military personnel missing in Cambodia since the Vietnam war.

The eight-member U.S. mission included Robert Sheetz from the Defense Department's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action office and a number of senators.

The mission, which stayed in Phnom Penh only one day, continued its trip to Vientiane and Hanoi in the same day [as heard].

Ministry, U.S. Agency Sign Orphans Aid Accord

BK0812062291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0420 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 8—The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the State of Cambodia and the "Holt International Children Service" [HICS] have signed here an agreement on aid to orphans.

Under the accord signed by Cambodian Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo and Mr. Thomas Roger, HICS representative, the HICS assisted by the United States

Agency for International Development (USAID) will before long help Cambodian orphans and vagabonds so as to ensure their future.

Refugees Demonstrate Against 27 Nov Incident

BK0712022291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] On 29 November 1991 at 0900, thousands of our people at Site 8, including old and young, men and women, demonstrated to express their anger with the 27 November 1991 criminal attack in Phnom Penh organized by foreign alliance groups against the house of their excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC].

The demonstration was staged throughout the entire camp. Afterward, the demonstrators rallied in front of the camp's administrative office where local and foreign press and television reporters were waiting to take pictures and report the event. We would like to present the following excerpt of this demonstration.

After many of our people, who demonstrated by carrying placards and shouting slogans, were assembled, representatives from each section stood in front of the people and news and television agencies and spoke, stressing that the attack against the house of their excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman, was systematically planned in advance and instigated by foreign alliance groups, who set themselves up as enemies of the Cambodian people, in order to:

1. Try to destroy the peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 to solve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia;
2. Destroy the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman; and destroy the great national union, national reconciliation, and national unification of the Cambodian nation;
3. Destroy the UN-assisted voluntary repatriation of Cambodian refugees who fled Vietnam's war of aggression;
4. Again prevent the reunion of our people with their families and relatives who have suffered for nearly 13 years;
5. Express contempt at the international community and the United Nations, who have been making efforts for the past nearly 13 years to implement a peace agreement to solve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia; and
6. Violate the national reconciliation efforts of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, whom the entire people have acknowledged as the only nationalist capable of achieving national reconciliation and unifying Cambodia.

The demonstration ended in an atmosphere of great national union after expressing great anger.

Eyewitness at Attack on Khieu Samphan Cited

BK0612035791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Dec 91

["Opinion of people in Ponhea Loe District of Kandal Province who were eyewitnesses to the violent attack on the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen"—read by announcer]

[Summary] Some of our people in Ponhea Loe District of Kandal Province who went to Phnom Penh on 27 November saw the violent incident in which the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen was attacked.

"Speaking to a correspondent of our Voice of the Great National Union of Cambodia radio, these people said that upon arrival in Phnom Penh they were very happy to learn that His Excellency Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] from the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] side, was coming to Phnom Penh." A while later, they heard loud noises and people shouting that the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen was being attacked and demolished. They said that they and the other people were then very angry with this barbarous act of the foreign alliance. They thus rushed to the scene to see what had happened. They stood on the roadside in front of the house. They said: All people who were watching the incident had kept complaining about such an act, saying how can our country enjoy peace; how can the peace agreement be implemented correctly?

These eyewitnesses said that they saw some 30 to 40 bad elements armed with iron bars, axes, hammers, knives, and clubs smashing and breaking the fence and then rushed on to attack the doors and windows of the house. After their many attempts to break into the house failed, these elements stopped and turned back to think of other ways to get in. These eyewitnesses saw foreigners standing by to hand out dollars and impose order. After getting some dollars, these bad elements stormed the house again. After breaking the doors and windows, these elements went inside. They smashed everything and even hit Khieu Samphan and Son Sen.

These eyewitnesses said "our people know very well that these bad elements are Vietnamese because while carrying out this act, some of them spoke Khmer brokenly and some others just spoke Vietnamese."

Our people said the Cambodian people want independence, peace, and social tranquillity so they can work to earn a living, thus there is no reason for them to destroy the peace agreement.

Therefore, our people are of the opinion that this brutal act is a premeditated plan by the enemies who do not want the peace agreement to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia and who want to implement the Indochinese Federation strategy in order to exploit the interests of the Cambodian people. Our people said: If we fall prey to this foreign alliance's scheme to prevent Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen from working in the SNC, how can the Paris peace agreement be implemented? Only with the four-party SNC joining hands into a great national union under Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership can the peace agreement be implemented.

Leaflets in Kompong Cham: SRV Behind Attack

BK0712040591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Dec 91

["Our people in Chamka Leu District are very angry and strongly opposed to the use of brute force to attack the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, organized by a number of bad alliance members"]

[Summary] Following the attack against the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen by bad alliance members, our people everywhere are furious. They say the organized attack using brute force was a flagrant violation of the Cambodian peace agreement signed in Paris dated 23 October and the UN peace plan. This is the plan of the enemies of the nation and people to hinder the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia quickly, correctly, and meticulously. This criminal and savage act is clearly aimed at destroying the SNC.

On 30 November, our people in Chamka Leu District [Kompong Chhnang Province] received hundreds of small leaflets the essence of which reads as follows:

1. Unite to implement the peace agreement to absolutely end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia quickly and correctly.
2. Absolutely do not use more brutal force.
3. Cambodians should not kill one another.
4. The 27 November 1991 incident was ordered by Vietnam.

These leaflest were left and pasted in schools, monasteries, and many public places.

UN Affirmation on Implementing Agreement Cited

BK0912015691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] On 3 December, His Excellency [H.E.] Rafeeuddin Ahmed, special envoy of the UN Secretary General, sent a message to H.E. Khieu Samphan the essence of which is:

To H.E. Khieu Samphan, member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]

Your Excellency: We have received a message dated 28 November 1991 saying that you and H.E. Son Sen have written to the UN Secretary General. The Secretary General has directed me to vouch to you that the United Nations is paying great attention to the 27 November incident in Phnom Penh because it directly affects the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Our agreed view is that in accordance with this agreement, the SNC should meet and work in Phnom Penh in peace and security. We are very encouraged by the decision on this matter at the meeting in Phatthaya on 3 December.

I would like to affirm to Your Excellency that H.E. the UN Secretary General continues to follow the situation closely and will contact all parties for their full cooperation in implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Please accept my highest consideration.

[Dated] New York, 3 December 1991
[Signed] Rafeeuddin Ahmed, special representative of the UN Secretary General.

Ieng Mouli Named KPNLF Foreign Affairs Aide

BK0712073491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, on Thursday, 5 December announced that Ieng Mouli, SNC member from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], from now on would be his assistant on foreign affairs, along with Hor Namhong from the Phnom Penh faction.

Son Soubert, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of foreign affairs, said Ieng Mouli, who is also the KPNLF secretary general, had been designated as the representative of His Excellency Son Sann, president of the KPNLF, in Phnom Penh before the latter's return to the capital city. Ieng Mouli planned to leave Bangkok for Phnom Penh early next week.

His Excellency Son Sann, who is currently staying in the Thai capital city of Bangkok after attending the recent SNC meeting in Phatthaya City, will probably return to Phnom Penh on 15 December.

KPNLF's Ieng Mouli En Route to Phnom Penh

BK0812071891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Mr. Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, left Bangkok on the morning of Sunday, 8 December, to return to Phnom Penh to continue working there in his capacity as a member of the SNC.

Last Thursday, 5 December, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the SNC, announced that from now on Mr. Ieng Mouli would be his assistant on Foreign Affairs along with Mr. Hor Namhong of the Phnom Penh faction.

Members of the KPNLF accompanying Mr. Ieng Mouli were Mess. Sieng Lapresse, Sangva De Lopez, and Nhem Khemara.

Chea Sim Inspects Places for Sihanouk's Visit

BK0812092491 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] His Excellency Chea Sim—chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, the National Assembly, and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council—accompanied by Mr. Kong Sam-ol, member of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, on 6 December inspected various places arranged for welcoming an intended visit to Kompong Cham Province by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—and his consort.

During its one-day stay in the province, the delegation visited Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's recently-restored residence; the grandstand for the samdech's visit; the province's permanent exhibition center, the Mekong hotel, the Cambodia-Hungary Friendship vocational center for providing training on farming equipment; Tbong Khmum District, and the processing factory of the 7 January Rubber Company.

The delegation highly valued the interest and efforts of the leaders from provincial to communal levels in making proper preparations for welcoming the visit of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his consort in the near future.

Sihanouk Appeals for Implementation of Agreement

BK0912022691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] In his 6 December 1991 address, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the supreme national council [SNC], appealed to Cambodians nationwide to assist in implementing the Paris agreement correctly for success.

The samdech added that only by implementing the Paris agreement correctly will Cambodia be able to regain peace and security and the Cambodian people rebuild the country and better their lives.

This statement by the samdech clearly shows his desire to see the entire Cambodian people unite with the signatory countries of the Paris agreement to implement the agreement correctly to ensure that Cambodia regains genuine peace and security. A Cambodia with genuine peace and security would enable the people to build a developed country and have the opportunity to work and improve their lives.

Khmer Rouge Denies Violating Peace Agreement

BK0812010491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Undated "Statement by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea Categorically Rejecting the Accusation that the PDK Violates the Paris Agreement"—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. There have been accusations saying that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] has violated the Paris agreement in this way or that.

2. The PDK would like to categorically reject all these accusations. In fact, the PDK is the one supporting all UN documents and the entire 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. The PDK has asked for 100 percent troop demobilization. The PDK has been striving to implement the Paris agreement correctly and meticulously.

3. The Cambodian people, people the world over, and all independent and neutral observers have clearly made their judgment on this. On the contrary, only Vietnam and its accomplices again and again oppose the UN documents; they have repeatedly opposed the Paris agreement. They, in fact, committed brutal, savage, and barbarous acts on 27 November 1991, attacking the house and body of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, completely trampling the Paris agreement, the documents of the first Phatthaya meeting, and the 25 October 1991 [date as heard] documents in Paris.

Furthermore, there are many thousands of Vietnamese troops in Phnom Penh. In rural areas, provinces, districts, and localities Vietnamese troops are leading the troops of the Phnom Penh side to carry out activities against the resistance forces and constantly attack Democratic Kampuchea and the Cambodian people.

Hun Sen: Alliance To Form Coalition Government

BK0912060191 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0424 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 9—The alliance between the Phnom Penh regime and supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk will become a coalition government in Cambodia after general elections, Prime Minister Hun Sen predicted Sunday.

Hun Sen made his comments to AFP during the first day of Prince Sihanouk's tour of the eastern province of Kompong Cham. Prince Sihanouk said recently in Thailand—where the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) he heads was meeting—that the governmental coalition agreed to several weeks ago between FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the movement now headed by his son, and the Phnom Penh Government had been cancelled.

But, Hun Sen said Sunday, "The political alliance between the two movements remains, because there is no reasen that they should be opposed to each other.

"We support the prince, as does FUNCINPEC, and therefore the two movements should work together."

Asked whether the two movements would run joint slates of candidates, Hun Sen said: "We are in the process of seeing how we should proceed", but did not elaborate.

General elections are forecast for 1993 under the peace agreement signed in October between the warring Cambodian factions to end the war that had lasted almost 13 years.

The FUNCINPEC-Phnom Penh government alliance was decided last month after the return to Cambodia of former monarch Prince Sihanouk, who formerly headed the opposition alliance against the Phnom Penh government.

Meanwhile Sunday, the prince enjoyed a warm welcome during his first visit to the provinces since returning to his native country, as he toured this province which is Hun Sen's birthplace and his political fiefdom.

"The last time I came to this province was in 1976. The Khmer Rouge (then in power in Cambodia) brought me, but I didn't have much freedom", the prince told AFP on a ferry crossing the Tonle Sap river, a tributary of the Mekong.

Prince Sihanouk found Kompong Cham "the true Cambodia, that of peasants who have remained for the most part monarchists, and therefore Sihanoukists", a member of the prince's entourage said.

China Reportedly Blocked Plan for Coalition

BK0912055891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0541 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] BANGKOK Dec 9 (AFP)—China was directly responsible for scuttling plans to form a coalition government in Cambodia between supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Phnom Penh leadership, a Cambodian guerrilla leader has charged.

China moved to thwart the coalition for fear that it would "harm" its Khmer Rouge ally, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk's son and the leader of a guerrilla faction loyal to him, told the German magazine DER SPIEGEL in an interview.

Excerpts of the interview, which is to be published on Monday, were made available here to AFP.

According to Prince Ranariddh, a senior Chinese diplomat had told Prince Sihanouk, the neutral head of an interim authority of Cambodia's rival factions, "that a coalition government between my party and the party of (Phnom Penh Prime Minister) Hun Sen would be a threat to the peace plan and that China did not want to hear about it anymore."

"I had to bow to this pressure," Prince Ranariddh added.

Plans to set up a coalition government were unveiled shortly after Cambodia's peace treaty was signed in late October in Paris between Phnom Penh and a guerrilla alliance of the Marxist Khmer Rouge and two non-communist groups headed by Prince Ranariddh and former prime minister Son Sann.

But Prince Sihanouk, the chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC) set up under the terms of the Paris accord, announced last week that it had been dropped following pressure from outside countries which he declined to identify.

The United States and Thailand have been said to have also been uneasy about the alliance of Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed leadership and Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Peaceful, Neutral, and Cooperative Cambodia], seen as likely to derail Cambodia's fragile peace.

China does not want this alliance because it fears that it would harm its clients, the Khmer Rouge, Prince Ranariddh told DER SPIEGEL.

China's massive military and diplomatic support allowed the Khmer Rouge to become the largest and strongest guerrilla group to fight Phnom Penh after the faction had been driven from power in January 1979 in an invasion of Cambodia by Hanoi's armed forces.

On Sunday, Hun Sen said the planned coalition government would be formed after United Nations-supervised elections which are to take place in Cambodia in early 1993.

Speaking during a tour by Prince Sihanouk of the eastern Cambodian province of Kompong Cham, he said that the political alliance between his Phnom Penh regime and FUNCINPEC had not been cancelled although the formation of a coalition government had been shelved temporarily.

"The political alliance between the two movements remains because there is no reason that they should be opposed to each other," Hun Sen said, adding that they both supported Prince Sihanouk.

Ranariddh Views Future Priorities, Khmer Rouge

AU0912144191 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 9 Dec 91 p 195

[Interview with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of Cambodian head of state Prince Sihanouk and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, by DER SPIEGEL; place and date not given: "Peace Is More Important Than Revenge"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Your Highness, how do you assess Cambodia's prospects for peace?

[Prince Ranariddh] The UN plan is by no means perfect. When the Khmer Rouge leader was attacked in Phnom Penh the week before last, the people were terrified. Today peace is more important for the Cambodians than revenge on those who were responsible for the genocide.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would you agree to a lawsuit against the Khmer Rouge?

[Prince Ranariddh] If after the 1993 elections a new parliament were to decide to bring these people to trial, I would agree.

[DER SPIEGEL] What do you think of the restoration of the monarchy?

[Prince Ranariddh] I am in favor of it. The people still cling to monarchy very much, my father's popularity proves this.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you want to become king of Cambodia?

[Prince Ranariddh] I feel that I am the heir to my father's policies, not to his crown. As in the case of my father, politics is in my blood. If it were my destiny to become prime minister, I would be happy.

[DER SPIEGEL] Between 1983 and 1991 you had a military alliance with the Khmer Rouge and fought against the government.

[Prince Ranariddh] I fought against the Vietnamese invasion of my country. Only in this respect was I allied with the Khmer Rouge. I regarded this alliance as perverse.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is the purpose of your present alliance with Hun Sen?

[Prince Ranariddh] It is a natural alliance against the Khmer Rouge.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think that the Khmer Rouge are still dangerous?

[Prince Ranariddh] Of course. My father is also worried. When we returned from Beijing by plane, he looked out of the window at the dense jungle and asked how the United Nations could get the Khmer Rouge out of it.

[DER SPIEGEL] How many Khmer Rouge are there?

[Prince Ranariddh] One can never tell exactly. I have an army of 17,800 men. In my opinion, the Khmer Rouge have between 45,000 and 60,000 men.

[DER SPIEGEL] What percentage of the votes will the Khmer Rouge get in the elections?

[Prince Ranariddh] Ten percent. Quite a lot!

[DER SPIEGEL] One can already meet young people in Pnom Penh who idealize the Khmer Rouge.

[Prince Ranariddh] Yes, this is a very dangerous tendency. But the problem is: Hun Sen's government is corrupt. In the past two years, it sold our country almost completely.

[DER SPIEGEL] How?

[Prince Ranariddh] The key sectors of our economy are already in the hands of foreigners. The woods, the mining industry, everything already belongs to the Japanese, Taiwanese, Thais, and Chinese from overseas. Only the rice fields still belong to us. We need investors, but not people who only want to exploit us. Cambodia is finally becoming independent again. But it will be an emptied independent country.

Hor Namhong Receives UNTAC Team on 5 Dec

BK0812072091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 5 December at the Foreign Ministry, Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia's foreign minister and chairman of the committee for relations with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], held talks with (Tama Naba), leader of a 35-member UNTAC team, who arrived in the State of Cambodia on the afternoon of 4 December to carry out its work relating to a number of ministries in Cambodia.

Taking part in the talks were ministers, deputy ministers, and leading officials related to UNTAC. The talks focused on the plan to divide work among relevant ministries with which UNTAC has to work and cooperate.

Deputy Trade Minister Briefs UNTAC Team

BK0912132191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] A group of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] members headed by (Regis Corway), an official in charge of financial affairs of the United Nations, met and held discussions with Uk Rabun, deputy minister of trade, at the office of the Ministry of Trade on the morning of 7 December in a bid to get a general view of the infrastructures and past activities of the Ministry of Trade.

Speaking on that occasion, Uk Rabun described in detail for the visitors the infrastructures and activities of the ministry, including the import and export of all kinds of goods in service of the people's livelihood and the national society. He said that we are implementing a free market economy by authorizing the people to freely circulate and transact their goods and products throughout the country. He said that this policy has won the strong support and approval of the entire population.

Enquiry Ordered Into Claim About U.N. Soldier

BK0712113691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 7 (AFP)—An enquiry has been ordered into a claim that a French soldier, deployed as part of a U.N. mission in Cambodia, fired a shot into the air during a brawl with locals, a French officer said Saturday. According to several members of United Nations civilian teams returning from Battambang in the northwest, the soldier, part of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) fired the shot in a restaurant November 29 during a fight between French personnel and Cambodian civilian patrons.

A French officer said Saturday he could not confirm the incident took place, but said an enquiry had been set up, adding that if found guilty the soldier would be punished.

"Such behavior would be unacceptable and would reflect badly on the image of the U.N. peacekeeping force and the French detachment," Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Boulenger told AFP.

The unit was withdrawn from Battambang the next day, but a UNAMAC official said the move was a normal part of deploying members of the mission.

They were replaced Thursday by a new unit made up of a Pakistani military liaison officer, three Australians and 18 French.

UNAMAC units do not carry weapons in Cambodia except for helicopter pilots who are allowed to carry sidearms in case they land in an unsecured area.

Only a small contingent of some 200 soldiers have arrived in Cambodia, mostly French soldiers and Australian signals and transport specialists.

UNAMAC has been tasked with preparing the deployment by mid-1992 of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which will administer the country to elections in 1993.

Half of UNTAC's personnel will be military.

UNAMIC Chief Awaits Signal for Mine Clearing

BK0912085891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 9 (AFP)—The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] is awaiting a green light from U.N. headquarters in New York to join efforts to clear the thousands of land mines littering the countryside, UNAMIC Chief Ataul Karim said Monday.

Karim told AFP that the four Cambodian factions had agreed in Phatthaya, Thailand last week to set up a body to work with UNAMIC to clear the mines, which pose a major danger for returning refugees.

But he said the United Nations must first broaden UNAMIC's mandate to mine-clearing and provide the money and personnel to do the job.

"The matter has progressed but no concrete decision has yet been taken," he said.

UNAMIC is to prepare for the arrival by April of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is to oversee the administration of the country until general elections can be held in early 1993.

While UNTAC will include mine-clearing equipment and specialists, UNAMIC has just 20 New Zealand army sappers whose brief is currently limited to running "mine awareness" programs.

Under the Phatthaya de-mining plan, which was proposed by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, military officials of the four Cambodian factions would set up a "National Mine Authority" as part of the factions' Supreme National Council (SNC), Karim said.

The authority would work with UNAMIC—which is assigning liaison officers to the SNC headquarters and to each faction in the field—to mark off minefields.

Ideally, each faction would delineate its fields with markers visible from satellite photographs, Karim said.

"That would be ideal because then we could map the whole country," he said.

However, Karim warned that the mine authority could only be formed after military officials from all four factions were present in Phnom Penh, possibly by the middle of the month.

During 13 years of war, the combatants have strewn thousands of mines across the country, especially in the northwest border areas. Few minefields are marked or even mapped and many of the mines are Chinese-built plastic models that are extremely hard to detect.

Aid workers have warned that the plan to repatriate 350,000 refugees from the Thai-Cambodian border ahead of the 1993 elections could be delayed unless a massive mine-clearing operation is launched immediately.

Thai Premier Sends Message to Sihanouk 3 Dec

BK0612041291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] On 3 December, Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun sent a message to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and chief of state of Cambodia, wishing him success in the current SNC meeting in Phatthaya.

The message noted: The violent attack on the house of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen in Phnom Penh on 27 November 1991 has caused mistrust within the SNC and has hampered the process to implement the peace agreement in Cambodia signed by all sides on 23 October 1991 in Paris.

The message added: The Thai Government has paid keen attention to this event. This use of violence has seriously affected the UN peace agreement.

Sihanouk Celebrates Thai King's 64th Birthday

BK0712144991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] On the night of 5 December at Cambodiana Hotel, a reception hosted by His Excellency Sunai Bunyasiriphan, Thai ambassador to Cambodia, was held under the lofty royal chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—and his consort to celebrate the 64th birthday of His Royal Highness Phumiphon Adunyadet, the monarch of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Attending the event were General Tie Banh, member of the standing committee of the the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and member of the SNC; Mr. Hor Namhong, Foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the SNC; Lieutenant General Sin Sen, deputy Interior minister and member of the SNC, as well as other leaders of the State of Cambodia and their wives.

At the reception, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk expressed his deepest thanks to the Thai king and queen, the royal Thai Government, and the Thai people for their valuable contributions in helping the Cambodian peace process toward its ultimate objective, safeguarding peace in Cambodia, and assisting in the preparations for the repatriation of Cambodian refugees. The samdech praised the king and the royal Thai Government for their correct and clear-sighted leadership, making the Kingdom of Thailand a developed country in Southeast Asia. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk wished the Thai monarch, on his 64th birthday, the best of health and longevity so he will be able to continue developing Thailand toward further prosperity.

For his part, His Excellency Sunai Bunyasiriphan profoundly thanked Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his consort for their participation, as well as officials of the State of Cambodia for their presence, making the reception sumptuous.

Hun Sen Receives SRV Ambassador to SNC

BK0712060891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0455 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 7—The Vietnamese ambassador to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) paid a courtesy visit to Premier Hun Sen in Phnom Penh Thursday.

The Vietnamese diplomat, Tran Huy Chuong, paid the visit to H.E. Hun Sen after having presented his credential letter to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chirman of the SNC, in Phnom Penh on Nov. 29.

It was the first time that Hun Sen, who is also vice president of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and member of the SNC, met with Tran Huy Chuong.

Tran Huy Chuong asked Hun Sen to create favourable conditions for him to fulfil his diplmatic mission to the SNC.

Hun Sen in his reply, promised to help the Vietnamese diplomat to the best of his ability so that he could achieve satisfactory results.

New SRV Ambassador Calls on Chea Sim 7 Dec

BK0912115591 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1115 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 9 Dec (SPK)—Mr. Tran Huy Chuong, Vietnamese ambassador to the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, paid a courtesy call on 7 December to Mr. Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee.

Chea Sim, also chairman of the National Assembly and of the National Council of the United Front for the Construction and Defense of Cambodia, welcomed the head of the Vietnamese mission to Cambodia, and informed him of the present situation in the country. He also asked the diplomat to convey his greetings and wishes to the leaders of the Vietnamese party and state.

Mr. Tran Huy Chuong, for his part, pledged to do his best to carry out his mission in Cambodia, thus contributing to the development of the friendly relations between the two countries.

The Vietnamese ambassador expressed satisfaction at the successes achieved by the Cambodian People's Party and the Cambodian Government and people during the past 13 years. He also transmitted the best wishes of the Vietnamese party and state leaders and people to Mr. Chea Sim and other Cambodian leaders.

The Vietnamese diplomat had presented his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the SNC, on 28 November.

Tie Banh Greets Lao Counterpart on National Day

BK0712095191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 6 Dec 91

["Message of Greetings" from Defense Minister General Tie Banh to his Lao counterpart, Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Minister: On the occasion of the 16th national day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on behalf of the cadres and combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces and in my own name, I would like to convey the most sincere, warm greetings and best wishes to you, as well as the cadres and combatants of the brotherly Lao People's Army [LPA]. May all of you have the best of health and zealous physical strength, and achieve every success in the implementation of the tasks entrusted by the party and people.

For 16 years under the clear-sighted leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Lao people and the LPA have, shoulder to shoulder and with unhesitating courage, defended the country, crushed both old and new colonialism, and prevailed over capitalism, imperialism, and other reactionary forces. At present, they are intensifying the struggle against all manner of difficulties and obstacles in order to rebuild with pride a prosperous nation and country.

Once again I wish you good health, happiness, and every success in implementing your noble tasks.

Please accept my highest regards.

Sihanouk Receives Lao Ambassador 7 Dec

BK0912054291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0430 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 9—Lao Ambassador to the supreme national council [SNC] of Cambodia Mr. Khamphan Simmalavong presented here Saturday [7 December] his credential letters to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC.

Mr. Simmalavong affirmed that the Lao People's Democratic Republic always respected the sovereignty, integrity and independence of Cambodia.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk pledged to provide favourable conditions to the Lao diplomat to bring his term of office in Cambodia success, thus consolidating and development [as received] the long-standing solidarity between Cambodia and Laos.

Mr. Khamphan Simmalavong is the 11th ambassador who had presented credential letters to the prince since he returned to Phnom Penh on November 14 after 13 years living in exile.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong was also present at the occasion.

Tie Banh Receives DPRK Ambassador on 5 Dec

BK0712132991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 5 December at the Army Foreign Relations Department, His Excellency General Tie Banh, member of the standing committee of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, cordially met with the DPRK ambassador to the SNC.

On that occasion, the DPRK ambassador said he was very pleased to have seen the spirit of national reunification of the Cambodian people and hoped that the Cambodian nation and people would certainly achieve peace with the spirit of national reunification spirit under the chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The DPRK also briefed His Excellency Gen. Tie Banh about some developments in the situation in the Korean peninsula, stressing that now the Korean people want to see the Koreas reunified with genuine peace, free from any threat of nuclear weapons.

For his part, His Excellency Gen. Tie Banh warmly welcomed the DPRK ambassador and voiced support for the spirit of reunification of the Korean peninsula. He also committed himself to providing all favorable conditions for making the DPRK ambassador's mission in Cambodia a success.

Tie Banh Greets Cuban Counterpart on Army Day

BK0712130291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

["Message of greetings" from Defense Minister General Tie Banh to his Cuban counterpart General Raul Ruz Castro; date not given—read by announcer

[Text] Dear Minister: On the occasion of the 35th founding anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [CRAF], on behalf of the cadres and combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces and in my own name, I would like to extend the brotherly salutations and joyous greetings to you and the cadres and combatants of the fraternal CRAF.

On this solemn event, I wish you and, through you, the cadres and combatants of the CRAF the best of health, vigorous physical strength, and new, still greater successes in implementing the present-day tasks, contributing to the restoration of peace in the region and the world at the present time and in the future.

Please accept my highest regards.

Oil Contracts Signed With French Consortium

BK0712062391 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0433 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 7—The Cambodian Minister of Trade has signed an accord on the import and distribution of fuel in Cambodia with a (?French)-based campany CDTIA. [expansion unknown]

The two sides will take charge of the installations of the State of Cambodia or through a company, state company or joint venture, for the import, stocking and distribution of fuel.

The contracts between the French side and various Cambodian services and units will be separately passed in 45 days following the signing of the accord.

The Cambodian side will assist its counterpart through the medium of the Cambodian Society of Fuel (CKC) which has at its disposal depots totalling 25,000 cu.m. in Phnom Penh and 63,000 cu.m. at Kompong Som seaport [figure indistinct] cu.m. cisterns and habours.

This accord is valid for five years and subject to renewal.

Joint Venture Accord Signed With French Firm

BK0812061891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0421 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 8—A joint venture for the import and distribution of fuel in Cambodia has been created in Phnom Penh between the "Compagnie des Caburants du Cambodge" (CKC) under the Ministry of Commerce and the Compagnie Francaise de Petrole (CEP).

Twenty-five percent of the capital is invested by the Cambodian side and the rest by the French company.

International Phone Link Set Up in Phnom Penh

BK0712060491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0436 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 7—The international telephone service has been opened to the public, according to the Posts and Telecommunications Department.

It is the first time for Cambodia to inaugurate such public telephone operation as a joint venture with the Australian Communication Service (OTCI).

International calls can now be connected through the use of "phone ticket" at 15 phone-boxes installed in five different places. Of them, 10 boxes are at the Posts and Telecommunications Department, two at "Bayon" satellite station, and the rest at the posts and telecommunications service of Don Penh Precinct, the Monorom hotel and the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia's residence in Phnom Penh.

According to the manager of the international telecommunications centre, 50-dollar-phone cards and 100-dollar phone cards are available. [passage indistinct]

Deputy Trade Minister Meets FAO Official

BK0812102491 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 6 December at the Ministry of Trade, Mr. Uk Rabun, deputy Trade minister, held talks with Mr. (Helmut Muller), an official of the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] of the United Nations.

At the meeting, Mr. [Muller] asked many questions so as to make himself become acquainted with the farming work and the production of basic necessities to serve the needs of the Cambodian people and for storage as reserve by the State. This is also aimed at providing the FAO with sufficient records, thus facilitating its activities and its appeal for assistance from various countries for the development of Cambodia.

Deputy Minister Uk Rabun briefed the guest about some concrete activities and progresses made by the State of Cambodia in the past in the agricultural field as well as in the production of consumer goods. However, he said: We are still experiencing shortages all the same.

Possible Food Shortage in Takeo Province Noted

BK0812074891 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 8 Dec (SPK)—A delegation led by Mesdames Chhuk Chhim and Jenetta Kwalia, respectively chairperson of the Cambodian Women's Association and UNICEF representative in Cambodia, recently distributed aid to 285 families affected by floods in four villages in Treang District, Takeo Province, 80 km south of Phnom Penh. Each household received a pair of buckets, a hoe, and 3,000 riel.

This year the district planted 26,000 hectares of rice; however, over 3,800 hectares were destroyed by floods and 3,500 families are threatened with food shortage next year. Treang has already received 11.5 tonnes of rice from British Red Cross, 43 tonnes from the Cambodian Red Cross, and 96 tonnes of rice seeds, four tonnes of chemical fertilizers, and four tonnes of rice from the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross].

Aid Distribution in Kompong Speu Reported

BK0712073891 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The Cambodian Red Cross recently distributed aid to (?needy) people in Kompong Speu Province, including 711 families in Aoral District, 1,532 families in Phnum Sruoch District, and 889 families in Samraong Tong District. Each family received a mosquito net, a blanket, a scarf, a sarong [Cambodian lower garment], a bobbin of thread, two mats, two cooking pots, (?six) plates, six spoons, a ladle for rice, a ladle for soup, a pair of buckets, a hoe, an axe, a kettle, a set of sewing needles, three [words indistinct], a block of (?resin), a bag of salt, and [words indistinct].

'Inviolability' of House, Body of SNC Members

BK0812022491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Dec 91

["Excerpt of Essence of the Statement by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] on the Significance of Housing and the 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement"]

[Text] Following is the essence of the 2 December 1991 statement by the NADK on the significance of housing and the Paris agreement:

1. The first Phatthaya meeting documents and the 25 October 1991 Paris documents are all acknowledged by the Supreme National Council [SNC], the cochairmen of the Paris conference, the United Nations, and the five major powers recognizing the immunity and inviolability of the house and body of SNC members.

2. According to the first Phatthaya meeting documents, the 25 October 1991 Paris documents, and the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, the houses of SNC members are the offices of SNC members who enjoy immunity and inviolability.

3. The 23 October 1991 Paris agreement is international law and the international charter for Cambodia in the transitional period. In this agreement, there are clauses concerning the SNC and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] whose responsibility is to implement this Paris agreement.

4. Statements dealing with the search of accommodations for SNC members and the guarantee that a large number of policemen would be provided to protect houses are not in accordance with the first Phatthaya meeting documents and the 25 October 1991 Paris documents dealing with the immunity and inviolability of the house and staff of SNC members.

5. The issue is not to raise a few isolated cases as a pretext, such as accommodations and so on. The issue, and the important thing, is how the Cambodian SNC and UNTAC are going to responsibly implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreeement and whether the first Phatthaya meeting documents and the 25 October 1991 Paris documents on the immunity and inviolability of the house and body of SNC members and their staff can be implemented or not.

Note: This above excerpt is aimed at:

1. Preventing the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, the first Phatthaya meeting documents, and the 25 October 1991 documents on the immunity and inviolability of house and body of SNC members and their staff from being forgotten and sidetracked.

2. If incidents, such as the ones on 27 November 1991 in Phnom Penh, are allowed to take place, it is a gross trampling on the above three international documents and the violators are fully responsible to the three documents, the Cambodian people and nation, the world, the UN Security Council, the United Nations, and the Paris conference cochairmen.

3. This also serves as a reminder not to use a few cases or technical reasons to cover or violate the above three political documents.

Nation Warned Against Endangering Peace Accord

BK0712090991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Political commentary: "Implementation of the Paris Accord Will Bring Genuine Peace to Cambodia"]

[Text] The Paris accord on Cambodia was signed on 23 October 1991 by the four Cambodian parties along with 18 other countries, namely the five major countries who are permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]—the United States, the PRC, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France—the six ASEAN states—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Brunei—Japan, India, Australia, Canada, Vietnam, Laos, and Yugoslavia—the latter is the current chairman of the nonaligned movement. The participation of the 18 countries in the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia is an ample demonstration of the international community's belief that peace in Cambodia is invaluable for the Cambodian people, Southeast Asia, as well as the whole world. Besides, the participation is evidence that the accord is also the source of genuine peace in Cambodia.

Jean-David Levitte—a senior official from the French Foreign Ministry—who joined a meeting to discuss a settlement of the Cambodian problem, said the Paris accord has been achieved after more than two years of efforts. As such, we can see that the accord is the fruit of the painstaking endeavor exerted by the international community to restore peace to Cambodia.

Some diplomats have said that the Paris accord is the last chance for Cambodia; if the implementation of the accord can not be fully carried out, this can signify the end of Cambodia.

That being the case, can anybody be allowed to endanger the peace accord? The Cambodian people, who sincerely want peace after years of sufferings, unreservedly support the accord. On 23 October 1991, the people everywhere were extremely happy to welcome peace. In some places, people beat drums and performed folk dances in a joyous atmosphere, as they already saw the ray of peace. Therefore, anyone who acts or creates anything against the Paris accord is the betrayer to the people's interests.

Only a genuine and full implementation of the Paris peace accord can ensure peace in Cambodia for certain.

Indonesia

Group Threatens To Stop Imports From Australia

BK0712125391 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The All-Indonesian National Importers Association [GINSI] will instruct its members to stop importing goods from Australia if the boycott against Garuda Airlines is not discontinued in two days. Its chairman (Amirudin Sahud) said this after attending a ceremony to sign a cooperation agreement between the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and [words indistinct].

He said GINSI will indeed stop its importing activities from Australia if the boycott against Indonesian interests continues. He advised Australia not to resort to such a move in solving a problem which took place in another country. Australia has thus far enjoyed a massive trade surplus with Indonesia.

Continuing Reportage on East Timor Shooting

Australian Envoy Claims Toll Over 100

BK0712095291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dili, Indonesia, Dec 7 (AFP)—Australian Ambassador Philip Flood said Saturday that following a five-day visit to East Timor he believed the death toll in a shooting incident here last month could have topped 100.

Flood told journalists before leaving for Bali that during his visit he had spoken with several officials as well as witnesses of the November 12 shooting here.

"It is in the light of discussions with the eyewitnesses that I feel able to also associate myself with the statements by the governor and by the bishop that 100 or more people had died," Flood said.

Flood said that during discussions with Jakarta-appointed Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao and East Timor Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenez Belo, both had said they believed the 100 people had died during and subsequent to the shooting.

Indonesian authorities have said that 19 people had died and 91 others were injured after troops shot in self-defence against an attacking mob of demonstrators at the Santa Cruz cemetery here on November 12.

Other sources, including witnesses, have said that troops shot into a crowd of mourners, some of whom were brandishing anti-Indonesian posters and banners. Their casualty estimates stood at between 50 and over 100.

Flood, who said his visit to the former Portuguese colony was among other things to "learn at first hand about the appalling tragedy," said he had spoken to three eyewitnesses of the Santa Cruz shooting. He did not identify them.

The National Investigative Commission (KPN) set up by the government last month to conduct a "thorough probe" into the incident was also in Dili and had since Thursday started to meet with eyewitnesses.

The team, which will report only to Indonesian President Suharto, has not commented on their findings.

Flood expressed the hope that the KPN would be able to complete their report quickly.

He repeated an earlier statement by Canberra that his government did not see any evidence of "deliberate or calculated decision or action" by the government in the shooting.

"Our information is that the massacre was the result of abberant behaviour by particular groups within the Armed Forces," Flood said, adding that his inquiries in East Timor had confirmed this position.

He said he had been told by both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and East Timor Military Operational Commander Brigadier General Rudolf Samuel Warouw that the ICRC now had full access to the wounded and those detained following the incident.

KPN leader Jaelani said Thursday that 48 of those treated at the Dili military hospital had been released and returned to their homes. He did not say how many were still at the hospital.

Dili Police Chief Colonel Ishak Kodijat has said that all but 26 of the some 200 arrested subsequent to the incident had been released.

The ambassador said that Canberra felt "there needed to be a new approach to reconciliation with the East Timor people" including the resistance.

The Front for the Liberation of East Timor (Fretilin) has been seeking independence for East Timor ever since Indonesian troops entered the territory in December 1975.

Jakarta unilateraly declared East Timor its 27th province in 1976 but the United Nations still views Lisbon as the administrator of the territory.

The Indonesian Armed Forces have blamed the Fretilin for instigating the November unrest which led to the shooting.

Flood said any program to achieve peace in East Timor should also include "a special package of political and cultural measures to meet the needs and aspirations of the East Timorese people."

He also said Canberra was seeking to open a consulate in Dili which he said would primarily monitor Australian development aid in East Timor.

Australian development aid commitment in East Timor stood at 26 billion rupiah (13 million U.S. dollars) and involved annual programs of 6.16 billion rupiah (3.0 billion dollars), he said.

A Program Administrative Support Unit manned by five local staffers was set up in Dili last week to help the implementation of the aid programs, Flood said.

Investigators To Use Own Findings

BK0812045291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0345 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Dec 8 (AFP)—An Indonesian team probing the Army shooting in Dili last month has said that an Australian death toll estimate which is higher than Jakarta's will not affect its own findings, press reports said here Sunday.

"It is up to the Australian ambassador if he wants to tell it that way, he must have a base (to say that). We are sticking to our own findings," The PELITA daily quoted Jaelani (eds. one name), who heads a National Investigative Commission (KPN) to probe the shooting, as having said in Dili, East Timor, on Saturday.

Jaelani, a supreme judge currently in Dili with the six other members of the KPN on a fact finding mission, was commenting on a statement earlier Saturday by Australian Ambassador Philip Flood.

Flood said he believed 100 or more people were killed on November 12 or afterward.

The envoy was speaking at the end of a five-day visit to East Timor which he said was aimed at getting first-hand accounts of the November 12 shooting in Dili by Indonesian troops.

Indonesian authorities said 19 people died and 91 others were injured when troops shot in self-defence on an attacking mob of demonstrators at a cemetery in Dili. Witnesses have said the shooting was unwarranted and put the death toll at up to 115.

KPN members, who had been in Dili since November 28, have gathered information on the shooting from the military, the police and eyewitnesses.

"The reports from the various sources will be processed and cross-checked to obtain an accountable explanation," Jaelani said, declining to compare the team's findings with those of Flood.

Flood said he based his estimate following talks with East Timor's Jakarta-appointed Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao and Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenez Belo, as well as with three eyewitnesses whom he did not identify.

Team members have already held several discussions with both Carrascalao and Belo. The two East Timorese leaders have also submitted written documents on the incident to the KPN.

KPN members met Saturday with members of the local parliament and with a group of 10 pro-Indonesian East Timorese figures. They also continued to interview people detained by the authorities over the shooting and those still being treated in hospitals for wounds suffered during and after the shooting. [passage omitted]

Fretilin Leader Comments

BK0812070691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0620 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Sydney, Dec 8 (AFP)—Indonesia is becoming increasingly isolated in Asia over its refusal to grant the right of self-determination to the East Timorese people, according to Fretilin leader Jose Ramos-Horta.

The man who has fought for recognition of East Timor since Indonesia's invasion and subsequent annexation of the country 16 years ago said dialogue had been opened with ASEAN to increase pressure on Jakarta.

"There is growing embarrassment and unhappiness among Indonesia's partners in ASEAN about Indonesia's policies in East Timor," he told AFP on Saturday during a rally to mark the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. He said members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have their own bilateral interests with Europe to consider.

"At some point they will have to choose between going down with Indonesia or taking care of their interests because relations in ASEAN and the European Community (EC) will suffer," he said.

Ramos-Horta said he had been told by the Portuguese government that Lisbon would be telling individual ASEAN members such as Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, "it will selectively support them within the EC if they change their position."

ASEAN groups Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Brunei.

"There is also growing dissension within Indonesia itself, particularly among the younger generation, " he said, commenting on calls by 11 student bodies on Java for an international investigation of East Timor and the withdrawal of Indonesian troops.

"That was unthinkable a year ago, two years ago," he said. Ramos-Horta said the November 12 massacre in Dili "was just one instance among many others in the past 16 years."

The difference, he said, was that Western journalists were on hand to record the killings.

Indonesian authorities say 19 people were killed and 91 wounded when troops opened fire on thousands of mourners who had attended a memorial service for a young East Timorese.

Foreign eyewitnesses said the death toll was 50 to 60, while others have estimated the number as high as 180.

Ramos-Horta said Japan was a potentially powerful ally in the struggle against Indonesia and Fretelin, the East Timor resistance movement, was lobbying for Tokyo's support, both politically and through the media.

As the biggest source of aid to Jakarta, "they have very powerful leverage—they could bring down Suharto if they wanted to."

But Japan faces a dilemma, he said.

"If it speaks out on human rights in Asia, it will not be hard to remind them of their historical legacy," Ramos-Horta said, alluding to Japan's occupation of southeast Asia during World War II.

"On the other hand, that cannot be its excuse," he said.

Ramos-Horta said the East Timorese would never accept a solution that continued to incorporate the territory within the Indonesian republic.

"It is absolutely out of the question, not even in 50 years time," he said.

"What we ask for is self determination, or are we different from the Kuwaitis, the Armenians, the Palestinians and the others, that we don't deserve self determination," he said.

"All we are asking is for a United Nations supervised referendum to be held in East Timor."

That, he said, was more likely now than ever before because "Indonesia has lost the political battle in East Timor, completely."

Governor Carrascalao on 'Chaos'

BK0912060891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 9 (AFP)—East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao believes it might be better to close the former Portuguese colony to outsiders to prevent further unrest following the army shooting there last month, a report said Monday.

"Since the region has been opened, chaos has come out. For myself, maybe it is better that it be closed," the Jakarta-appointed governor told the weekly magazine Editor in an interview published Monday.

Indonesia lifted travel restrictions into and out of East Timor in January 1989, declaring "open" the former Portuguese colony which it unilateraly declared its 27th province in 1976.

The native East Timorese governor, who in the past had been against a planned visit by a Portuguese parliamentary delegation, said that "if left open, it has only led to chaos."

Carrascalao also said that he was against any foreign investigation into the Dili shooting.

"Their arrival will only cause unrest. As an individual, I am against it but as a governor I will do whatever is decided by the centre," he said referring to the central government in Jakarta.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in Lisbon earlier this month that the United Nations planned to send an expert envoy to Jakarta to negotiate a U.N. investigative team to probe the East Timor shooting.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood was in East Timor for five days last week to get first-hand accounts on the incident. Flood said before leaving Dili Saturday that he believed the death toll of the army shooting on November 12 could have topped 100.

Indonesian authorities said 19 people died and 91 others were injured after troops shot in self-defence against an attacking mob of demonstrators at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili on November 12.

Witnesses have however said troops shot into a crowd of mourners, some of whom were carrying anti-Indonesian posters and banners. They estimated the death toll could top 100.

A seven-member National Investigative Commission (KPN) has been in Dili since November 28 on a fact finding mission in its bid to conduct a "thorough probe" on the shooting.

Carrascalao pointed out again that he had been against the Portuguese visit which had been slated for last month but which Lisbon unilaterally cancelled following an unsettled dispute that followed Jakarta's veto on an accompanying foreign journalist.

"I prefer preventive rather than repressive steps," Carrascalao said.

He also said he did not believe the "unrest" that led to the Dili shooting had been engineered by the Portuguese. The ANGKATAN BERSENJATA (AB) daily of the Indonesian Armed Forces has blamed Portugal for the unrest that lead to the shooting. "I am not convinced that it (the unrest) had been engineered. I know East Timor.... If we said that, it means that Portugual has been more able than us in guiding the East Timorese people," he said.

"According to me, we are the one at fault. Because the children who demonstrated were the product of our education, not that of the Portuguese," Carrascalao added.

Meanwhile the PELITA daily Monday said that security members late on Saturday foiled an alleged assassination attempt against KPN members.

PELITA quoted an unidentified "reliable" security source as saying that security members had confiscated a poisoned long knife dissimulated in a walking stick from a man at the Mahkota hotel in downtown Dili, East Timor where KPN members were staying.

The man who had carried the weapon escaped arrest but his identity was known to the security authorities, the source said, adding that a hotel staff believed to be implicated in the case also escaped arrest.

The man who always wore dark glasses and a cowboy hat and held the cane in his hand, had been spotted for several days mingling with the many journalists present awaiting KPN members at the hotel's lobby, the source said.

Earlier Saturday, security members also found a flag of the National Liberation Front of East Timor (Fretilin), a group seeking independence for East Timor, on the ground near the flag pole at the Santa Cruz cemetery, where the November 12 shooting took place, PELITA said.

The Editor said the flag had been flying from the pole before security members took it down, while a number of leaflets in Portuguese and in the local Tetum language were also found at the cemetery.

Aceh Area Free From 'Security Disturbance Group'

BK0712125891 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] The Aceh Special Region has been declared free from the threat by the security disturbance group, which used to oppose the authority of the Indonesian Government. This was disclosed by Colonel (Taruwan Hamid), commander of 11th Lilawangsa Military Resort Command, to Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno in Lhok Seumawe yesterday. Gen. Sutrisno was making a working visit to (Basah Belang) village in Northern Aceh to inspect a civic mission by the Indonesian Armed Forces.

Col. (Hamid) said the civic mission showed that the Armed Forces had indeed protected the public from the persecution and harassment by a handful of men who opposed development efforts, adding that the public in Aceh could no longer be deceived by the security disturbance group. The people are also determined not to allow their land to be occupied by those who make troubles and sufferings to them.

Democratic Party Wants Presidential Terms Limited

BK0612022691 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 23 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—A leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) Kwik Kian Gie, proposes that beginning in 1993 the Indonesian presidential term should be limited to only two consecutive terms.

The People's Consultative Assembly/House of Representatives (MPR/DPR) is going to elect a new president in March 1993, following a general election in June 1992.

Speaking to members of the West Java branch of PDI in Bandung last night, Kwik said his proposal did not mean to convey a feeling of regret that both former Indonesian president Sukarno and incumbent President Suharto held the office for more than 10 years.

"I'd like to emphasize here that after Independence, our nation needed to have the stability and continuity which could only be provided by one person heading the state for a long term," he said.

However, such an approach was no longer relevant now as the nation was becoming a mature society with better educated people and adequate facilities, and was more solidly united, he said.

"The world changes very quickly. Therefore, our leaders should adjust accordingly, by limiting the presidential term," he said.

Kwik was speaking during the installment of PDI research and development officials for its West Java branch.

Quoting Suharto's Independence Day address in August, he said that a new era of "open national dialogue" had arrived. He said he hoped the open dialog would be considered as a springboard for the nation toward achieving a common perception on addressing strategic issues.

"The President recognized that openness is a must, but also emphasized that it should be accompanied with a sense of responsibility," he said. "The problem is, to what extent an open attitude can be regarded a responsible or irresponsible act?"

Kwik proposed a set of "rules of the game" for implementing the concept of openness, including expressing difference of opinion and examining problems meticulously without "pointing a people's noses."

He also suggested that people try to come up with concrete, realistic and applicable solutions as well, instead of merely presenting slogans which would not help the situation.

Earlier Kwik said that the future would bring challenges demanding that politicians improve their quality so that they would not become mere "slogan machines."

"They should be able to produce concrete and applicable concepts and thoughts," he said.

Kwik said members of the House of Representatives should recognize and assert their own rights in order to improve themselves. Otherwise, their counterparts in the executive branch of government would surpass them intellectually and be better technocrats.

"Then, the intellectual society would mock (the House of Representatives) as a 'house of clowns'," Kwik Kian Gie said.

Minister Forecasts Lower Economic Growth

BK0912051691 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 2 Dec 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—The present tight money policy will make it difficult for Indonesia to maintain economic growth rates this year and in 1992 at the 7.43 percent level achieved last year, Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin says.

"If we can achieve growth rates of six percent this year and in 1992, these will be good enough," Sumarlin told newsmen after installing 51 high ranking officials at his office on Saturday.

Many of the current economic problems, including the economic slow down, were offshoots of the tight monetary policy of the last two years, Sumarlin said, adding that the government had anticipated some of these problems.

The minister's growth prediction for 1992 was more conservative compared to those given by a number of leading economists.

Iwan Jaya Azis of the Faculty of Economy of Universitas Indonesia, last week said he was hopeful that the economy in 1992 would grow by more than the six percent forecast for this year because interest rates would be lower by then.

Sumarlin said the government had loosened its monetary grip compared to the past year and would continue to do so gradually in the coming months.

He pointed out that inter-bank call rates have fallen to 13 percent, the interest rate on Bank Indonesia Certificate was 17 percent and the interest on money market securities (SBPU) was around 22 percent.

The government has curbed the growth of the money supply in the last two years in an effort to keep inflation under control.

Sumarlin warned that despite the easing of the money supply, the government would continue to strive to maintain the inflation rate at a single digit figure.

The national consumer price index has increased by 8.27 percent in the first 10 months of 1991. It rose by 9.54 percent during the entire 1990 as the high growth rates of the last three years caused the economy to overheat, putting strong pressures on inflation and Indonesia's balance of payments.

The minister acknowledged that bank lending rates have stayed at high levels despite the easing of the tight money policy because commercial banks were under pressure to strengthen its capital as required by the banking regulations. [passage omitted]

'Rampant' Cholera Outbreak in West Java Viewed

BK0812103791 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "We Hope That the Cholera Case in Ciamis Will Not Turn Into an Epidemic"]

[Text] As reported by this daily yesterday, the Ogawa-type Eltor cholera has been rampant in Ciamis district, West Java, since October. The West Java Regional Legislative Assembly has proposed to the Health Department's regional office that the occurence be declared an epidemic.

We have closely monitored the outbreak of cholera in Ciamis for several reasons: first, because of our deep concern that the disease has claimed heavy casualties. This daily's correspondents noted that this disease had afflicted 2,038 and killed 16 persons. The Health Department's regional office reported that the disease had stricken 64 villages in 6 subdistricts.

When we talk about a disease with symptoms including vomiting and diarrhea discharge, it is important to remind the public of the main causes of cholera.

Dr. Suyoga MPH [Master in Public Health], head of Health Department's West Java regional office, pointed out that cholera had spread rapidly in Ciamis due to the poor public health system. He said that local people often use public water utilities, such as ponds, for taking baths and use as toilets. As such, when a person suffers from cholera, other people who use the pond are also infected. The bad habit is made worse by the change of the dry season into the rainy season, with the movement of water contaminated by the Eltor cholera into other places.

We want to praise Ciamis Health Service's actions to remedy the situation by putting chemical substance in water wells and providing antibiotic injections to the patients.

Obviously, the most urgent task is to help the victims. After that, we must also encourage a healthy lifestyle for the people who are still prone to such contagious disease.

We want to stress the importance of preventing the disease and hope that the authorities will provide an adequate supply of clean water and enhance public awareness of healthy lifestyles.

As for the proposal submitted to the health minister that the outbreak of cholera in Ciamis be declared an epidemic, we believe that it must be considered more carefully.

We believe that a negative impact of such a proposal will follow. The State Law No. 4/1984 stipulates that only the health minister is authorized to declare or revoke such a decision and he must be very careful before doing it.

If such a decision is reached, it must also be conveyed to the World Health Organization and the existence of the Eltor cholera epidemic in Ciamis must be made known worldwide.

The obligation to comply with the international etiquette is not something difficult, but on the other hand, it will bring about a negative impact, namely, it will lower our national reputation as far as the maintenance of public health is concerned. Besides, foreign tourists may have second thoughts before they visit our country, which they may view as cholera-prone.

We must indeed turn the Ciamis experience into an invaluable lesson. We must obviously pay attention to the efforts to provide early relief measures to avoid a higher death toll. Appropriate follow-up measures are also needed to prevent the disease from spreading further.

In this connection, the Health Department's West Java regional office said that its most important task was to minimize the death toll in the affected area, and not to prevent the disease from spreading. The office believes that the second task must be done by several related state agencies.

While we basically agree that the maintenance of public health is a common task by people living in a given area, the promotion of a healthy lifestyle is indeed the task of a specific state agency, namely, the Health Department.

The spread of any disease usually takes place in the least developed area, but it is also a fact that wherever it takes place, it will inevitably affect the nation's reputation when the disease spreads far and wide.

We sincerely hope that the authorities will handle the cholera problem in Ciamis properly so it does not have to be declared an epidemic and that we will be more active in promoting a healthy lifestyle. It is true that a healthy lifestyle is not cheap, but when we become sick, other problems in life become meaningless.

Laos

Foreign Leaders Send National Day Greetings

'Admiration,' 'Cooperation' Expressed

BK0812123691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, and Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut separately received greetings and congratulatory messages from leaders of many friendly countries: for example, from the State of Palestine, signed by the state president and chairman of the PLO Central Committee, Yassir 'Arafat, and Foreign Minister Farug Qaddumi; from the Kingdom of Thailand, signed by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin; and from Federal Germany, signed by President Richard von Weizsaecker.

In their greetings and congratulatory messages to our Lao leaders, the leaders of those friendly countries expressed admiration for, and satisfaction with, the achievements made in many fields by Lao people during the period of national defense and national construction and in carrying out the restructuring in the socioeconomic field in Laos. At the same time, they also expressed hope and belief that the relations of friendship and cooperation between their countries and the LPDR will be further developed and promoted in the future for the progress, growth, stability, and happiness of the Lao and their peoples.

PRC Groups Send Messages

BK0812130691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 16th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Other Countries and the China-Laos Friendship Association of the PRC sent congratulatory messages to the Lao Committee for World Peace and Solidarity and Friendship with Other Countries and the Laos-China Friendship Association.

The messages extended the Chinese people's best wishes to the Lao people, wishing our people greater successes in building the country and carrying out the cause of restructuring. They also wished that the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Lao peoples be further strengthened and developed.

Message of Thanks Received From PLO's 'Arafat

BK0812125691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Dec 91

["Recent" message of thanks from State of Palestine President Yassir 'Arafat to Lao People's Democratic Republic—LPDR—President Kaysone Phomvihan]

[Text] On behalf of the PLO Central Committee and the Palestinian people and in my own name, I would like to express our profound thanks and gratitude to you, your excellency, and the Lao Government and people for sending a message of greetings to me on our recent national day. I am fully confident that the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between our two countries will be continually strengthened for the fulfillment of the cause of our common struggle and for peace and the victory of justice in the world. All this was also contained in your message of greetings sent to our people.

Once again I would like to express our sincere thanks to your excellency.

I wish your excellency good health and the fraternal Lao people progress and prosperity.

Leaders Send Greetings on Thai King's Birthday

BK0712105891 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 7 (KPL)—President Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic], on December 5 sent a telegram of greetings to his majesty the King of Thailand Phumiphon Adunyadet on his 64th birth anniversary.

The Lao president extended best wishes of happiness and longevity to the king of Thailand and the royal family, and wished all Thai neighbors happiness and presperity.

He also wished the good relations of kinship between Lao and Thai people lasting and increasingly developed.

On the same occasion, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and foreign minister Phoun Sipaseut also extended greetings to their respective Thai counterparts.

AIDS-Infected People, Anti-AIDS Activities Cited

BK0712113791 Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 7 (KPL)—The result of blood tests conducted during 1991 on 2,658 people in Vientiane has indicated that among them 6 people were found with HIV (") [character with parentheses as received]. Of the people, 3 were returnees from camps in Thailand and 3 are waitresses, confirmed the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology at a recent meeting here to review its activities on HIV/AIDS control and prevention.

1990 test revealed that only one person was HIV ("). Therefore, so far there are 7 people with HIV (") in Laos.

The institute has over the years launched several activities against AIDS.

Following the AIDS workshops for non formal trainers held in Vientiane at the end of 1990, the NCCA [expansion unknown] with the collaboration of those non formal trainers who are representatives from the Lao Women Federation in the five districts of Vientiane municipality, high schools, colleges and universities has organized discussions on the topic of AIDS and HIV infection. Each discussion has included a pre and post-test for the basic knowledge on AIDS/HIV of attendees. The total number of attendees reached during these discussions was approximately 11,000 persons.

In September and August 1991, the provincial station of hygiene and (?epidemiology discussed) HIV/AIDS for 2,089 students of provincial colleges. Several seminars on AIDS and HIV infecton were also held for the provincial health personnel.

In October 1991, 3 meetings on AIDS and HIV infection were organized by the NCCA in Savannakket Province, with a total number of 422 participants. NCCA in collaboration with the member of the AIDS subcommittee from the military health department has conducted meetings to discuss HIV/AIDs topic among 656 military recruits and soldiers. The seminar was assisted by the Embassy of the United States of America in Laos.

In August 1991, a 2-day workshop was organized in the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology to prepare questionnaire for the rapid assessment of KABP [as received] and conduct a pretest. The number of participants was in total 22.

The Lao radio and television broadcasts have aired about programmes on AIDS/HIV information. And the Lao leading newspapers have also published 8 articles on AIDS and HIV infection.

Since the mid of 1991, the NCCA and the laboratory services of the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology have adopted an anonymous testing system for voluntary persons, a pre- and post-test counselling and a reasonable follow-up for the HIV positive person.

On the 17th September 1991, the NCCA had a discussion with policemen and immigration officers of the Ministry of Interior in order to avoid a tendency of prejudice and discrimination isolation of HIV positive people identified among the illegal returnees from Thailand.

The laboratory-responsible for HIV antibody testing has been actively participated in the programme of quality control of WHO collaborating laboratories in Australia and Switzerland in order to increase the performance and accuracy of the testing methods used. Since we have no confirmatory test for HIV, the initial positive sample found in our laboratory were sent to Australia and recently to Thailand for the confirmation.

Traffickers Convicted of Cannabis Possession

BK0612111291 Vientiane KPL in English 0925 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 6 (KPL)—Eight Lao citizens charged with trafficking marijuana to Thailand on Dec 4 stood trial in Bolikhamsai Province, and were found guilty of possessing more than five tons of cannabis.

All eight persons, including one woman, were from Ban Bountang, Hinboun District, central Khammouane Province. One guilty man named Sengmani was sentenced in absentia.

The seized cannabis was destroyed in the presence of officials of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Interior, other public [words indistinct] as well as UN organization representatives in Laos.

The convicted persons admitted that they were involved in trading marijuana since 1989 in which they had contacts with some Thai citizens: Mr. Sombat, Mr. Sang of Nakhon Phanom Province, and Song of Sakon Nakhon Province.

The ring leader, Ms. Somseun said in 1991 the three Thai traders gave them 800,000 baht to purchase 20 tons of marijuana. However, over 10 tons had already been delivered, and the five tons were seized by Borikhaosay authority.

The guilty persons were sentenced between one to seven and a half years of imprisonment in accordance with the Articles 32, 68, 69 and 135 of the criminal code. Ms. Somseun, aged 42, got the heaviest term.

Report on Population Census Announced

BK0612112891 Vientiane KPL in English 0928 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 6 (KPL)—A meeting was held yesterday at the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Finance, to announce the initial result of a population census over the country, to review the past activities in statistical collection and to plan the next activities in the work.

At the meeting Deputy Minister of Economy, Planning and Finance Kithong Vongsai, spoke of the importance of the meeting, expressed thanks to the UN agency dealing with demography in Laos for its aid in the work. After that, Mr Bounthavi, head of the State Statistics Center, announced the result of the population census conducted twice a year under Project Lao 87/P1 from July 1988 to June 1991.

According to the result, the birth rate is 4.16 per cent, the death rate 1.54 per cent, and the natural growth rate 2.62 per cent. So in the 1990s the population of Laos will be 4.14 million, of which 2.10 million are women. Compared with the first census in 1975, the population growth rate is slowly reduced from 2.9 percent to 2.6 percent, according to which population number will be 4.24 million in 1991, and 4.71 million in 1995.

Philippines

Japanese 'Remorse' Expressed for WWII Suffering

HK0912032291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] The bitterest of enemies during the Second World War met yesterday to commit themselves to the maintenance of world peace.

In simple ceremonies held in Malacanang in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second World War, Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto expressed his fellow countrymen's "deep remorse" over the sufferings inflicted by Japan on conquered countries.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely express our deep remorse over the unbearable sufferings and sorrow Japan inflicted upon a great many people of the Philippines and other Asia-Pacific countries," Goto told the crowd composed of war veterans and their families.

Goto said Japan has learned its lesson from the horrors of the war and has vowed never again to wage war against its neighbors.

"That most unfortunate event certainly taught us a most valuable lesson and we very resolutely determined ourselves to never again repeat past actions but to make positive contribution to world peace. I assure you (President Aquino), that this is a feeling widely shared by a great many of the Japanese people today," the ambassador said.

Mrs. Aquino said the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which signalled the start of the war, was being remembered not to recall the atrocities committed against the Filipinos or to resurrect the ill feelings toward the conquerors but for Japan to act as a catalyst in a world calling out for lasting peace.

"We are here to denounce war as an instrument to settle international differences. We are here to pledge ourselves once more to international understanding. We are here to commit ourselves to world peace," the President said.

Mrs. Aquino also hailed the war veterans. These heroes, she said, have paid the stiffest price during the war—losing their lives during the battle and for those who survived, suffering physical and emotional wounds.

"As we move into a New Age of Peace, your sacrifices will serve as reminders, not of the grimness of battle nor the bitterness of enmity, but of your capability to lead us to forgive, love and understand our fellowmen. These are the true pathways of peace," she told the veterans.

The President said Japan has become one of the best allies of the country in attaining economic progress and political stability.

"The horrors of World War II are now behind us. Political stability beckons to the Asia-Pacific region. Our once bitterest enemy has now become one of our best allies for progress. The whole world is weary of war. We are looking forward to longer-lasting peace," she said.

From the ruins of the war, Japan has emerged as one of the world's economic powers, a feat made possible by the support and understanding extended by countries like the Philippines to his country, Goto said.

The understanding offered by these countries, Goto said, made Japan believe that it is its "sacred duty" to contribute to the political stability and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and to the rest of the international community.

"It is my sincere hoped that peace prevails and endures in our region and in the world so that future generations may never have to suffer the horrors of war. We hope to continue to join hands in the pursuit of this mission," he said.

"Let me conclude by praying that this day of Dec. 8, 1991, be for the Japanese, the day for reflection, and for everybody, the day for the determination to achieve everlasting peace in the world," Goto said.

Yesterday also marked the year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Second World War which carries the theme: "Valor, Peace and International Understanding."

The President released an P [Philippine peso] 1.36 million to finance the commemoration. The Philippine Veterans Association plans to construct a World War II memorial shrine in Metro Manila and to hold various activities to be participated in by foreign governments, foreign veterans, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

Mrs. Aquino also informed the veterans that there are bills pending before the U.S. Congress seeking to restore their status as full-fledged veterans of the United States and which will entitle them to the benefits enjoyed by American veterans.

She said the government has created the Office of Veterans Affairs at the Philippine Embassy in Washington to help the veterans make their claims.

In the Philippines, Mrs. Aquino said Congress has upgraded the pensions, hospitalization and other benefits of war veterans by consolidating Republic Act No. 65 and Republic No. 6948 in April 1990.

She added that she recently designated the Veterans Federation of the Philippines to have the power to vote the government's shares of stock in the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corp.

Mrs. Aquino also said that the Veterans Bank will soon be reopened.

Imelda Marcos Cleared of Human Rights Abuses

HK0912050191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0354 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Manila, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Philippine government's chief human rights watchdog on Monday cleared former first lady Imelda Marcos of any violations.

"She has not, to our knowledge, sent any person to jail without valid cause," Human Rights Commission chairwoman Mary Bautista told a press conference.

"We have no evidence that she ordered the imprisonment or torture of any person," she added.

The widow of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who jailed more than 10,000 people while he ruled by martial law, is so far liable only for "crimes against the state," Bautista added two days before the celebration of International Human Rights Day.

Marcos is facing 80 criminal cases, including allegations of graft, tax evasion and helping her husband plunder this impoverished nation until a popular revolt ended his 20-year rule in 1986, and sent the couple into exile in Hawaii.

Marcos, who was allowed to return home last month, earlier this year filed a complaint with the commission, an investigative body which can only recommend prosecution, alleging that President Corazon Aquino's government was abusing her human rights by refusing to give her a passport.

The body has not rendered its findings, but a lower court has ordered the government to issue the passport, rejecting claims that Marcos remained a security threat.

The ruling is on appeal, and Marcos cannot leave the country even if she is granted a passport until all her cases are resolved.

A group of former political prisoners has filed a class suit against the Marcos estate before a Honolulu court demanding at least 356 million dollars in damages from the couple's deposits in Swiss banks.

The suit clashes with a claim filed by President Corazon Aquino's government, which filed criminal cases against Imelda Marcos in compliance with Swiss court conditions for the continued freeze of the deposits until their final ownership were determined.

The group's chief counsel, Romeo Capulong, said Monday that they were prepared to reconcile their demands with the government's, but maintained that victims of human rights abuses under the Marcoses be given compensation.

"They are not asking that all the Marcos money be given to them," he said.

Capulong said they were having difficulty gathering evidence because the Armed Forces and Defense Department, which hold vital records of the martial law years, refuse to cooperate.

Human rights activists say many of the officers involved in torture, illegal detention and summary execution during the 1972-81 martial law period now hold influential positions in the government and the military after joining the anti-Marcos revolt.

Aquino Confirms Resignation of Ramos

HK0912100491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 9 Dec 91

[By Dick Synchongco of DZRH Unit 6 at Malacanang Palace and Restie De Quiros of DZRH Unit 8 at the Senate, with anchorman Joe Taruc in the Manila studio; live]

[Text] [Synchongco] The decision of President Cory Aquino to announce her endorsement of a presidential candidate on her birthday, 25 January 1992, has not changed.

In an ambush interview a little while ago, the president confirmed the resignation of former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos from the Struggle of the Filipino Democrats [LDP]. The president also stressed that this has been her long standing decision and there is no change regarding that.

[Taruc] Dick, does that mean that former Secretary Ramos first sought the permission of President Aquino before resigning?

[Synchongco] It seems, Joe, that the president knew about this because a while ago, some journalists intercepted Ramos here at Malacanang Palace, and the confirmation made by the president was simultaneous with the resignation of Ramos. In other words, the president is aware of the decision of Ramos to break away from the ruling LDP.

[Taruc] Okay, thank you very much, Dick.

[Synchongco] We will be back for other reports. The proposed cease-fire is still being studied by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, whose recommendations are being awaited by Malacanang, prior to discussion by the cabinet cluster on security and political development.

[De Quiros] In relation to the report that former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos resigned this afternoon as member of the Struggle of the Filipino Democrats following his defeat in the convention, we were able to get the immediate reaction of LDP president, Senator Neptali Gonzalez.

According to him, he does not blame Ramos for his decision if this is what he wishes. Gonzalez said that the actions and moves of the LDP will continue despite the resignation of Ramos.

[Taruc] Restie, can we have the opportunity of getting a direct interview from Senator Neptali Gonzalez?

[De Quiros] A while ago, he was quite busy because there was an ongoing floor deliberation, so I just recorded his reaction Joe. Let's listen to his reaction.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Well, the truth is, I cannot give any comment because I have not yet received official word about his resignation from the party. I don't know anything about that. I just heard about that from you, based on your broadcasts. But if this is true, then that is his right. He has the right to pursue his destiny or future in politics. But for us, it wouldn't mean the end of the world. Instead, we will all the more move with strength and determination. [end recording]

[De Quiros] That, friends, was the reaction of Senator Neptali Gonzalez, LDP president, on the reported resignation of former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos as an LDP member.

Secretary Resigns After 'Disloyalty' Charge

HK0912044191 Quezon City MALAYA in English 9 Dec 91 pp 1, 8

[Text] Interior and Local Government Secretary Luis Santos has resigned after some Malacanang officials accused him of "disloyalty" for supporting Speaker Ramon V. Mitra's presidential bid, a top police official said.

Santos announced his resignation Friday night during the birthday party of Cesar P. Nazareno, Philippine National Police chief, in Camp Crame.

Other developments:

—Sen. Orlando Mercado, a leading supporter of presidential aspirant Marcelo Fernan, said he is willing to give way to others as Fernan's running mate to pave way for coalitions to widen their campaign base.

—Nacionalista Party presidential contender Eduardo Cojuangco called on the government to restore the rights of over a million coconut farmers who are shareholders of the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

—Former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos urged political leaders to "find a common ground" and ensure the nation's survival through urgent economic reforms.

Police officers who attended Nazareno's party said Santos sent his letter of resignation to President Aquino hours before he proceeded to Camp Crame.

The secretary, they said, offered to quit after allegedly being ostracized in the Cabinet for supporting Mitra in the Nov. 30 Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of the Filipino Democrats] (LDP) convention. Malacanang officials supported Mitra's rival, former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos.

In his letter to the President, Santos said he was resigning out of "delicadeza" [propriety] after several Palace officials and fellow Cabinet members reportedly accused him of disloyalty.

Camp Crame sources also said Santos was smarting from Malacanang's move to ignore the DILG [Department of Local Government] by distributing the Budgetary Assistance for Local Government Units (BALGU) and the

National Assistance for Local Government Units (NALGU) directly to beneficiaries.

The Palace reportedly feared that Santos would use the funds to help the candidacy of Mitra.

Political leaders have urged Ms. Aquino to name as Santos' successor Ramon Montano, retired Constabulary chief and now DILG undersecretary for peace and order.

Santos, a former guerilla leader and Davao City police chief, was plucked from the House of Representatives by Ms. Aquino to head the Department of Local Government following the assassination of then Secretary Jaime Ferrer.

He held on to the post in holdover capacity after the DILG was created about a year ago.

Santos was accused of using DLG funds during the 1988 elections to support his candidates. He later claimed the money was not used but instead kept in his vault.

Meanwhile, Mitra,—after being confirmed winner of the LDP conventions,—yesterday said he will begin searching for a running mate early this week from among candidates, including Ramos.

Other Mitra choices for running mate were Sen. John Osmena, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio Cuenco, former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, Sen. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, Sen. Joseph Estrada, Philippine National Bank president Ed Espiritu, and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Aurelio Periquet.

On Saturday, the LDP national executive committee confirmed the report of the national electoral affairs committee [NEC] that Mitra has beaten Ramos by 414 votes during the Nov. 30 conventions.

The NEC agreed to investigate the charges of irregularities and cheating filed by Ramos but said Mitra's victory will not be disregarded or overturned even if the complaints are substantiated.

Ramos gave no clear statement regarding his plans but hinted that he has no intention of giving up his charges as he urged the LDP to make reforms now.

"We have a great need for him in the party. We feel we need him even in running the campaign. I'd like him to be involved deeply, to be in the key circle of our own campaign organization," Mitra said.

An aide of Ramos said the former defense chief is staying with the party. If his charges are proven, the LDP national electoral congress might reject Mitra's victory and vote for Ramos, the aide sid.

Senator Mercado, a leading Fernan supporter who is reportedly being groomed as his running mate, said he would rather give way to others to pave the way for coalitions that would widen their base.

Fernan has said the Union for Progress has been eyeing "young and idealistic" political leaders who are "fed up with the uninspired and selfish way by which political power is being dispensed."

He lamented what he described as the self-centered patronage policies that prevail in the traditional political parties.

In a press statement, Cojuangco deplored moves to undermine the voting rights of 1.4 million coconut farmers in UCPB despite a Sandiganbayan decision upholding their rights.

But the Presidential Commission on Good Government obtained from the Supreme Court a temporary restraining order hours before the voting was set to take place last March.

"Since the administration claims to be pro-poor, I cannot understand why it will not allow over a million small coconut farmers to earn from their shares in UCPB and why it wants to own these shares instead," said Cojuangco.

Orbos told student leaders in Baguio City that it was urgent that political leaders "put dirty, partisan and vested interests in the back burner and instead close ranks, focus on our problems, and identify their solutions."

Speaking before the National Council of Leaders of the Young Men's Christian Association, Orbos called anew for government deregulation and greater private sector initiative to revive the economy.

Mitra Officially Announced as 1992 Candidate

HK0812042891 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] The Struggle of Filipino Democrats' [LDP] executive committee meeting held last night resulted in an agreement between House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos to end the feud between their camps. At the meeting, the victory of Speaker Mitra in the 30 November LDP convention was formally announced. He is now the party's standard bearer in the 1992 polls.

Senator Neptali Gonzales, who is also LDP president, stressed that Ramos will remain an LDP member. Gonzales explained that Ramos' protests only aimed to voice his feelings and document any cheating which may have occurred during the convention.

The executive committee also instructed the secretary general of the ruling coalition to investigate the alleged cheating and take necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of similar event so that the LDP can maintain its credibility. However, Gonzales did not say if Ramos had agreed to be Mitra's running mate in the 1992 elections.

Rebels Announce Imposition of Campaign Fees

HK0912042191 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 9 Dec 91 p 9

[Text] Politicians campaigning in rebel-controlled or infested areas of the Southern Tagalog region would be required to pay the National Democratic Front (NDF) a minimum of P [Philippine peso] 10,000 each for their protection, the New People's Army announced yesterday.

Gregorio Rosal, NPA [New People's Army] spokesman for Southern Tagalog, claimed only those politicians who would pass their "screening" would be given the chance to campaign in the NPA strongholds.

Rosal, 46, also known as Ka [Comrade] Roger, said politicians seeking presidential and senatorial positions would pay higher fees and settle their accounts with any NDF leader in Manila or outside the country.

This was the second time the rebels had announced the imposition of campaign fees in areas which they control. Last week, the NPA in the Bicol region issued similar guidelines for local politicians who wanted to campaign safely in rebel areas.

In 1987, the communist NPA rebels imposed the same requirements in some parts of the country.

Rosal was interviewed by a group of reporters somewhere at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in Quezon.

He said the rebels would allow the people to exercise their right of suffrage but at the same time "conduct an education campaign to show to the people the records of some of the public officials."

He also assured the people that there would be no ballot-box snatching nor would the NPA allow fraud and irregularities in rebel areas in the general elections next year.

Apart from raising funds for the revolution, Rosal said they would not prevent the election from occurring in their areas although they would try to educate the people on what and who they should vote for.

Christmas Truce With Communist Rebels Detailed

HK0912034591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said he will observe the cease-fire with communist rebels this Christmas period but not with the rebel soldiers headed by former Colonel Gregorio Honasan. General Abadia said he will recommend to President Aquino a new series of cease-fires with the New People's Army [NPA] rebels but the rebel soldiers would not be covered by the cease-fire. General Abadia stressed that the government has given Honasan's group enough time to return to military control but they have ignored the efforts of the government and the deadline set 23 November. At the same time, the general ordered a massive manhunt to look for Honasan's group after a breakdown of talks between the government and the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance. Honasan has headed six coups against the Aquino Government and has a 7 million peso reward on his head.

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon announced that they will discuss the cease-fire plan with members of the Cabinet Cluster E on Political and Security Affairs. Drilon said he will submit immediately to President Aquino any recommendation which may be reached by the members of the cabinet regarding the cease-fire issue.

In a related development, high military officials and communist rebels have agreed to have a cease-fire enforced during the Christmas period up to the New Year but they have not agreed on the length of the cease-fire period. General Abadia stressed the military will enforce the cease-fire as in previous years—they will observe a 48-hour cease-fire for Christmas and New Year's Day. Abadia said that it would be impossible to enforce the proposal of Congressman Gregorio Andolana to have a cease-fire from 16 December to 6 January. He further said that he will recommend to President Aquino the Christmas truce of previous years. Last year the military suspended its operation against the communist rebels from 1300 on 23 December to 1300 on 26 December and from 1300 on 30 December to 1300 on 2 January.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa stressed that he favors a long cease-fire period but is still awaiting the recommendation of General Abadia regarding this matter. According to De Villa the guidelines for the cease-fire will be announced by the chief of staff and will be enforced with the communist rebels.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the NPA-Melito Glor Command, Gregorio Rosal, alias Comrade Roger, favors a 22-day cease-fire so that they can spend a longer time with their loved ones this Christmas season. Comrade Roger said that they favor the proposal of Congressman Gregorio Andolana for a longer cease-fire period between the government and communist rebels during the Christmas period.

Following this Rosal said that they are rejecting the proposal of the government in making the cease-fire at the regional level and instead stressed for a national negotiated cease-fire so that both sides can discuss different issues and talking points, including the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces in the country.

Troops Kill Seven NPA Rebels in Leyte, Samar

HK0912043591 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Dec 91 p 7

[By Vincent Batic]

[Text] Tacloban City—Seven communist guerillas, including a commander, were slain in separate encounters in Samar and Leyte last week by government troopers who also found a baby left behind by retreating rebels.

Belated reports here said elements from the 20th Infantry Battalion killed five guerillas, including a woman rebel, in sitio Alindog, Barangay Cervantes in Catarman, Northern Samar on Nov. 25.

The one-year-old boy found by the soldiers after the encounter was turned over to officials of a nearby barangay while the bodies were brought to the town.

NPA Leader Held Captive After Surrender Approach

HK0212061491 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Dec 91 p HC-10

[By Robert Requintina]

[Text] The Philippine National Police (PNP) said yesterday that a New People's Army (NPA) commander in Eastern Visayas is being held captive by his fellow guerillas after he reportedly sent surrender feelers to the local police.

An intelligence report submitted by Leyte Sur PNP Director, Superintendent Rodolfo Caisip to Director General Cesar P. Nazareno, PNP chief, identified the captive as Jaime Soledad, alias Nestor and Carlo, the secretary of the Southern Leyte Front Committee (SLFC) of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA.

The report was given to Nazareno who flew to Leyte to assess the peace and order situation in the province that was recently devastated by a killer storm.

Soledad and some of his followers are reportedly being held under restriction by his deputy officer upon learning that the rebel commander was planning to surrender to police authorities.

Caisip said that he has been receiving surrender feelers from Soledad thru emissaries since October.

Teofilo Orillo alias Yusop, deputy secretary of the SLFC, ordered the arrest and detention of Soledad and his followers after learning of their plan.

Orillo, it was learned, has already assumed the position as acting SLFC secretary.

The detained communist rebels are reportedly being tried by a Kangaroo court created by Orillo.

Military Adopts New Promotion System

HK0912052591 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 9 Dec 91 p 9

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, yesterday said a new system on the promotion and assignment of military officers has been adopted to encourage younger officers to perform better in the field.

Abadia said officers would not be promoted based on his competence and capabilities as the armed forces scrapped the usual "scoring" system in determining the advancement of military officers.

"There would be no more ruling class that would determine who will go up the ladder," Abadia told soldiers during a pep talk in Mindanao over the weekend. "Regional assignments of any officer would be no longer the basis for their promotions to next higher rank or position."

Abadia also vowed equal opportunity for regular and reserve officers to be promoted or given sensitive assignments, particularly in the command and general staff level.

"All officers, regardless of the source of their commission, would have equal chances to be promoted, given good assignments, and even better military trainings abroad," he added.

As a proof to this drastic change in the military's promotion and assignment system, Abadia has recommended the promotion of at least two young army colonels to star rank because of their "good performance" in the field.

Colonels Jose Lapuz (PMA [Philippine Military Academy] 65) and Rene Dado (PMA 66) who were both army brigade commanders assigned with the Seventh Infantry Division in central and northern Luzon would actually jump over 100 others colonels in the military's authority list if they would be confirmed in Congress this week.

Lapuz was the former commander of the Army's elite Special Forces regiment before he became commander of the 701st brigade based in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

Dado, who played a key role in the crushing of the Aug. 28, 1987 coup attempt, propagated the army's "Special Operations Team" (SOT) concept which helped defeat the communist rebels.

The SOT was later incorporated in the AFP's campaign plan "Lambat Bitag [Net trap]" as a potent weapon to de-influence a barangay from rebel control.

Under the usual AFP promotions procedure, it would take Lapuz and Dado three to four more years before they could be promoted to generals because a large number of officers belonging to PMA classes 61, 62, 63 and 64 have yet to earn their star ranks.

During the Marcos regime, officers are promoted in batches and it was very seldom for a much younger and junior officer to be promoted ahead of his superiors.

Exception to this rule were favored officers like Irwin Ver, the Son of former AFP chief of staff Fabian Ver, who was promoted ahead of his classmates. He belonged to PMA batch 70.

Lapuz would be the fourth PMA batch to be promoted to star rank after Brigadier Generals Abraham Paray, Danilo Olay and Jose Ma. Solquillo.

Dado, on the other hand, was the very first from his class, PMA batch 66, to be promoted.

Apart from Lapuz and Dado, Abadia has also recommended Jose de Joya, a non PMA colonel, to be promoted as brigadier general.

The new promotion and assignment system, according to Abadia, would encourage younger officers to perform better as well as professionalize the service.

Abadia, however, did not say if the changes were made as part of the RAM-KSP-YOU [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers' Union] demands to reform the AFP promotions system.

Abadia said the changes were made because it was part of his three point program to professionalize and modernize the armed forces.

Central Bank Governor Points to Capital Return

HK0412045991 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 91 p 1

[By Rodney Diola]

[Text] More than half a billion dollars believed to have been previously stashed or salted abroad by Filipinos has returned to the country, Central Bank [CB] Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. said yesterday.

Cuisia explained that in November, banks recorded a $600-million increase in foreign currency deposits, to about $3 billion from only $2.4 billion the previous months.

The CB governor said another indication of returning capital is the Filipinos' active participation in the $300-million debt-to-equity swap auction by the Central Bank.

The fourth and last auction, held yesterday, was dominated by Filipinos who cornered more than 50% of the $74.5 million bids.

"Where do you think would they get those funds but from abroad?" Cuisia said.

The CB had also noted earlier a $1.2-billion flow registered in the country's balance of payments in the first eight months of the year, but which was placed under the statistical classification called "errors and omissions."

While the "error and omissions" entry may also reflect under-reporting or over-reporting by the financial system of their foreign-exchange holdings, it is recognized as a good indicator of capital flight or return.

In the early '80s, the entry reported a negative position as rich Filipinos, including cronies of President Marcos, panicked over the unstable political situation and sought to convert their assets to foreign money and had it stashed abroad.

Analysts said the strong surge of funds from abroad could be attributed to the forthcoming May elections, which means that the stashed money was coming from the candidates and their supporters.

Think-tanks and independent research organizations estimate that the candidates are expected to spend as much as P [Philippine peso] 15 billion for the presidential elections in May.

A study conducted by economists connected with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) estimated that the amount of money stashed abroad from 1978 to 1988 amounted to $12.9 billion, or nearly half of the country's external debt.

Such huge amount carted abroad, mostly in secret Swiss bank deposits, in prime real estate property and other investments, testifies to the ability of private persons to convert their wealth into foreign-denominated assets despite government safeguards against such illegal activities, the PIDS study noted.

PIDS economists also believed the substantial capital drain should also be blamed on exporters and importers who resort to dollar-salting, a scheme whereby exports are underpriced, and import payments overdeclared, with the difference kept abroad.

A study still to be released by the PIDS said trade misinvoicing has been one of the most important vehicles for illegal export of capital from the Third World.

Underinvoicing of exports and overinvoicing of imports allow exporters and importers to retain part of the foreign-exchange proceeds for each transaction to be salted abroad.

An official of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, however, said the return of stashed or salted capital to the country was not something to rejoice about.

"There might be a temporary redistribution of wealth, but in the end, those funds will only inflate the economy because the money is channeled to unproductive use" he said.

Islamic Bloc Not To Support Muslim Secessionists

HK0912051991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Dec 91 p 7

[Text] The Saudi Arabia-based Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] has reassured the Philippine government that the Islamic bloc will not support any armed solution to the Muslim Mindanao conflict. INQUIRER sources at the foreign office's Middle East and African affairs section said yesterday that the OIC position "will pressure the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] into resolving the issues with the government through peaceful means."

"They (MNLF) have no alternative but to sit down and talk with the government," the same sources said.

Hunger, Disease Plague Negros Evacuees

HK0312044991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Dec 91 p 23

[By Romy G. Amarado]

[Text] Dumaguete City—Hunger and various diseases continue to plague the more than 1,300 evacuees from southern Negros Oriental after two weeks of unfruitful dialog among human rights groups, the military and the provincial government.

The lack of food, medicine and the congested situation at the evacuees' temporary refuge, the grandstand of Silliman University in this city, have taken their toll on the evacuees. Last week Jo Marie Antonio, a three-month-old baby, died.

Human rights groups have criticized government agencies for paying only lip service and for not giving the assistance needed to the refugees forcing them to ration available food and prioritize the use of medicine due to acute shortages.

The evacuees left their villages in three barangays in the hinterlands of Sta. Catalina town, 90 kilometers west of this city, after continued offensive operations against communist guerillas in September.

Dr. Eva Yap, medical officer of the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (CSAC), one of the two remaining physicians attending to the evacuees' health needs told the INQUIRER she was alarmed about the critical medicine supply.

She said eight children and three adults had to be brought to the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital and a medical clinic in Dauin, a town 14 kilometers southwest from here.

CSAC records show 113 children are suffering from upper respiratory tract infection; 69 from pneumonia; 44, gastro entiritis; 19, parasitism; 19, bronchitis; 12, amoebiasis; 12, chicken pox; and four, tuberculosis.

Meanwhile, Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias II, after a series of failed dialogs with the evacuees' leaders and heads of human rights group, has refused to recognize the Sta. Catalina residents here as legitimate evacuees since military operations which started on July 18 had stopped on Oct. 14 when the governor initiated peace talks with the insurgents.

The National Democratic Front (NDF) had rejected the offer due to the Sta. Catalina issue and because the issues concerned should be discussed on the national level.

Prejudice and mistrust between the military, the human rights groups and the evacuees have contributed to the failure of dialogs over the past two weeks.

Army Colonels Victoriano Calidguid and Donato Quintos, commanders of the 57th and 303rd Infantry Brigades, have claimed the evacuees were being used by the communists for their propaganda campaign and the evacuees have demanded the pull out of the military detachments from their town before they decide to return.

Thailand

Prime Minister Leaves for Japan, U.S. Visit

BK0812074091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his delegation left the Bangkok Airport this morning for a visit to Japan and the United States. Responding to reporters' questions on the country's current situation before his departure, the prime minister said that the situation is not of any concern and that his visit would be a short one. Trade talks with the two countries during the visit will be for long-term basis.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, who is accompanying the prime minister's delegation, told the Public Relations Department's correspondent about the purpose of the visit as follows:

[Begin Recording] [Asa] Both Japan and the United States are of great significance to Thailand economically and politically. We hope that during the prime minister's visit, talks with the leaders of Japan and the United States will further strengthen bilateral cooperation. In particular, it will be beneficial if we let them learn of this government's achievements because it will pave the way for greater cooperation. Besides the meetings with leaders of the two countries, we will also meet businessmen there. We will tell the businessmen that changes in our economic policies in various aspects will benefit bilateral cooperation. We believe that the businessmen in Japan and the United States will be more interested in investing in Thailand after getting explanations from the prime minister.

[Correspondent] How is the foriegn investment situation in the country at present?

[Asa] Regarding big investment projects, now the Shell Company and the Caltex Company have signed agreements to invest in big oil refinery projects. The Esso Company will also follow soon. In addition, I was informed by the Japanese Ambassador to Thailand recently that some 800 Japanese companies had applied for promotional privileges from the Board of Investment. [end recording]

Dailies View Minister's Visit

BK0912094791

[Editorial Report] The 9 December issue of two Thai-language mewspapers—THAI RAT and BAN MUANG—carry editorials on Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's 8-20 December visit to Japan and the United States.

The 450-word THAI RAT editorial on page 3, entitled "A Test for Thailand," says the prime minister's visit "can be said to amount to the test of the superpowers' recognition of Thailand," adding that most small countries which are Thailand's trading partners look to the superpowers' recognition to guide their contacts with Thailand. Continuing, the editorial says: "In the present world, the superpowers regard themselves as the powers that set the world order. It appears that they are using human rights and democratic administration as the yardsticks in their degree of opposing or boycotting the offending countries. For this reason, Thailand has been the target of a certain degree of opposition from the world community following the February coup."

The editorial says the U.S. reception of the prime minister will be the best test of Thailand's position. "If President Bush appears cold or speaks tersely with the prime minister, then an explanation is not necessary. But if the prime minister receives a fitting reception, it will signal that the United States has not completely spurned us but is just somewhat upset and that its anger will disappear once the general elections materialize in Thailand. The Japanese and U.S. reception will be very important in view of its staunch anti-dictatorial stance. They will serve as an indicator for Thailand's economic future as well as its national honor."

The 400-word, page-5 BAN MUANG editorial, entitled "Do Not Forget National Honor," says the Thai people strongly hope that the prime minister's visit will generate industrial and investment benefits. "But what bothers them and needs to be resolved is the country's serious trade deficit problem. If the Japanese and U.S. Governments give greater access for Thai goods, particularly agricultural products, then Thai farmers, who represent the majority of the Thai population, will benefit a great deal. Actually Thailand has enjoyed long-standing, all-around relations with both Japan and the United States but lately has been suffering from thoses countries' protectionistic measures. The Thai Government has surrendered to many demands to remove such protectionism, which aggravates many Thai people who feel that the government action has placed the country in an excessively disadvantageous position that undermines national honor as well as the Thai people's honor. The Thai people hope that on this trip the prime minister's negotiations will regain that honor, which should be based on equality between sincere allies."

Visit Said 'Burdensome Task'

BK0812144791 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 8 Dec 91 p 2

[Article by Kamon: "When Anan Meets Bush in Washington D.C."]

[Excerpt] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of Thailand in 1991, will visit the United States for a lecture tour at the invitation of the Asia Society of New York. He will also deliver speeches to the Thai community in several U.S. cities. He will hold an informal meeting with President George Bush at the White House.

George Bush is president of a democratic country. A majority of American people uphold democracy, with only a few Americans cherishing dictatorships such as communism. This is just the opposite of other countries, where only a little democracy exists while dictatorship prevails.

The U.S. visit will be a very risky and burdensome task in the life of Anan, a career diplomat, since he became prime minister by appointment from the military junta which came to power by a coup d'etat on 23 February 1991. Anan will certainly have to answer many questions concerning the government in Thailand, other problems like human rights violations, and the election to give back democracy to the people. The Thai community in the United States is interested in these issues too.

George Bush might want to know about the Cambodian issue, since a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia has just been held in Phatthaya, Thailand on 3 December. He might also want to know about the situation in Thailand.

In fact, George Bush knows about what is going on in Thailand. There are several U.S. agencies here to send him data on Thailand via satellites on a 24-hour basis. They report to him in detail about the activities of Thai personalities and leading figures from all sectors. Bush even knows where they keep their mistresses.

The National Legislative Assembly appointed by the junta is scheduled to vote on the draft constitution in the third reading on 7 December. Under the draft constitution, there will be a House of Representatives with 360 members, and a Senate with 270 members. The representatives are directly elected by the people, whereas the senators will be appointed by the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council, or the junta which staged the coup on 23 February.

The United States, with a population of nearly 300 million people, has only a 100-member Senate, much smaller than the 270-member Senate in Thailand, a country with a population of only 60 million people. Why is Thailand's Senate like this? This must be a question in the heart of the Americans. Thailand's constitution bears some resemblance to the British and Japanese constitutions, but under the new constitution, the Senate will have more power than the British and

Japanese parliaments. Thailand's system of government is one among 300 kinds of democracy which exist in the world.

Senators in Thailand are entitled to call for a general debate to censure the government, and to vote on major bills proposed by the government, including the annual budget bill. In short, it has the power to topple the the government, whereas the government has no power to dissolve the Senate. The power of the Senate is stipulated in the provisional clause of the constitution to last for four years. Academics interpret this as a desire by the junta to have special power to control the government, through parliament, for a period of four years, without having to resort to a coup d'etat to overthrow the government.

George Bush may have difficulty understanding the Thai constitution, but we believe Prime Minister Anan will be able to explain to him the Thai way of democracy.

The constitution gives the speaker of the House of Representatives the power to call for a prime minister who will form a government. In principle, during the first sitting of the House of Representatives after the election, there will be an election of the speaker and deputy speaker of the House. In that case, the political party which wins the most votes in the election would have one of its members elected as speaker of the House and its leader become the new prime minister. These were the positions that the Chat Thai Party once was able to obtain when it won 190 seats in the parliament. That was in keeping with the rule of the majority under the British parliamentary system.

But under the Thai constitution, the 270-member Senate has become the biggest party in parliament with power to control and censure the government. In this regard, the prime minister who is the leader of the largest party will have to please all parties in the coalition which supported him as prime minister, in addition to the entire group of senators at present.

Americans might wonder why only the Senate is given power to censure the government, while the government is not given the same power to dissolve the Senate. The government is empowered to dissolve the house in the same way the house is given the means to topple the government. In England, the government dissolves Parliament in order to hold a new election whenever there is a conflict between the government and Parliament. This is to give the people a chance to voice their opinions on the government or political parties during a controversy.

A Westerner like George Bush will have a headache trying to understand the Thai-style constitution, a product of the coup d'etat on 23 February. The Thai community in the United States might not be able to understand it either. Yet it is hoped that Anan Panyarachun will be able to solve all such problems through diplomatic methods in the interests of Thailand and the Thai people. It is an honor for a country to have true democracy. Anan Panyarachun will have a hard time trying to think of answers to questions on Thailand. The same is true for the Thai people both in Thailand and the United States. [passage omitted]

Princess Sirinthon Invited To Visit Cambodia

BK0712080291 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] President of the Supreme National Council of Camboida, or SNC, Prince Norodom Sihanouk has invited Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon to visit Cambodia. Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said the invitation was reportedly extended during a press conference by Prince Sihanouk after the end of the SNC meeting in Phatthaya on 5 December. Mr. Asa said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet received the invitation letter. However, he said the Royal Household Bureau would handle this issue. For the time being, he said Thailand has to wait until the SNC is able to hold the next meeting in Phnom Penh before accepting the invitation of the royal visit to Cambodia. The visit must be carefully timed at an appropriate period.

The minister also expressed satisfaction over the SNC meeting in Phatthaya earlier this week, which is seen as great efforts to push for peace process in Cambodia by all parties, including Thailand.

National Assembly Approves Draft Constitution

BK0712033491

[Editorial Report] Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai at 0234 GMT on 7 December begins a live broadcast of a meeting of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] to consider the draft consitution in the third reading. NLA President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin starts by saying that 268 members have attended the meeting, which constitutes a quorum, and therefore he declares the meeting open. He says that there will be no debate in the third reading and that the voting will be carried out through a roll call. The NLA members will be called to vote in alphabetical order, and the promulgation of the constitution reqires a minimum of "two-thirds of the NLA," or 192 votes in its favor.

Next, NLA President Ukrit appoints six members to count the votes. He then says that 277 [figure as heard] NLA members of the total number of 288 are present at the meeting. The meeting then proceedes with the roll-call voting.

After the voting has ended, NLA President Ukrit states that there are "262 votes for, 7 votes against, 4 abstentions, and 15 members not in attendance," and therefore "the meeting approves the draft constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand." He then declares the meeting closed.

King Signs New Constitution

BK0912140991 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] National Legislative Assembly [NLA] President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin presented the new Constitution to the king for his signature today. At 1730 at the parliament building, Ukrit countersigned the Constitution which had been signed by the king, before storing a copy of the Constitution at Government House. The king's signature puts the new Constitution into effect as of today. General elections will be required by law in 120 days, and the election and political parties bills will have to be deliberated by the NLA. General elections are expected to be held by the end of March at the latest.

[Begin Ukrit recording] The legal significance of the king's signature today is that general elections will have to be held in 120 days—by 8 April 1992—after promulgation of the Constitution. In the meantime, the government will have to submit a draft election bill for NLA consideration. The NLA deliberation will take some time, but the NLA will try to speed up the process as much as possible. It is anticipated that general elections could be held in mid-March or the end of March at the latest. [end recording]

The NLA president also noted that the present government will continue to perform its duties until a new government is formed. The size of the NLA will remain unchanged and the NLA will have no power to interpellate the government. Ukrit said the National Peacekeeping Council chairman will countersign the appointment of 270 senators on the date that general elections are held. The tenure of the 270 senators will be four years, in accordance with the provision clause. All 270 senators will end their term after four years, and the prime minister will countersign the appointment of new senators.

'Thousands' Rally in Favor of Draft Constitution

BK0712012991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Thousands of rural villagers were mobilised yesterday to join separate rallies in several provinces in an apparently concerted campaign to support the draft Constitution scheduled for its final reading by the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] this morning.

The move came as student activists, academics, political parties and members of non-governmental organisations loosely allied as the Campaign for Popular Democracy tried to convince the assembly to overturn the draft.

About 3,000 people gathered at Lan Po, Thammasat University, last night to oppose the draft. At least 10 people including a Thammasat University lecturer, housewives and labourers began a hunger strike in Bangkok yesterday to highlight the movement's cause.

Anti-constitution protests by students were reported in Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Songkhla. Nineteen students in Songkhla and seven in Chiang Mai have been on a hunger strike for the last few days to oppose the draft.

About 1,000 people joined Chiang Mai University students in burning effigies of National Peace-keeping Council leaders at the city gate at Tha Pae last evening. The students later moved back into their campus but vowed to go on with the rally and the hunger strike.

University students yesterday formally presented a petition to the NLA to oppose the draft. A press conference was also held by a separate group of academics at Chulalongkon University to announce that a survey of more than 300,000 people revealed 99.8 percent oppose the draft.

Police nationwide are on full alert to prevent any untoward incident today. The order from Police Chief Gen Sawat Amonwiwat was given to commissioners of the Central Investigation Bureau, the Metropolitan Police, Border Patrol Police and Regions 1 to 4 Provincial Police.

Deputy Police Chief Gen Manas Krutchaiyan will follow the situation closely and order any action necessary. Pol Col [Police Colonel] Chatri Phetdam, deputy commander of Special branch police assigned to monitor activities of pro-democracy students and others, said he believed the situation would be normal because His Majesty the King this week asked the public to show unity.

Police sources, citing reports reaching the Police Department yesterday, said many people who had intended to join the anti-draft charter demonstration today had backed down after hearing His Majesty's speech.

Rural villagers, taken in bus and truck convoys to separate provincial headquarters, rallied briefly before presenting their governors with a list of signatures in support of the draft's being approved so an election can be held promptly.

In Tak, about 2,000 villagers were taken to rally briefly in front of the provincial town hall in support of these measures. The villagers dispersed after an hour when 10 representatives, some of them recognised by reporters as assistant district officiers dressed in plain clothes, handed their demands to Governor Chamnian Sasibut and asked him to pass it to the president of the National Legislative Assembly.

The Interior Ministry reported that by yesteday afternoon about four million signatures in support of the constitution had been sent in from various provinces nationwide. A ministry sources insisted that the ministry had not told provincial authorities to mobilise villagers but admitted it had not banned the governors from sounding out the views of local people.

Army radios and state-owned television channels last evening also broadcast a sermon by the highly-respected abbot of Wat Chalapratan Ratcharangsit, Phra Panya Nantabhikku, calling all concerned in the debate over the Constitution to show restraint and to accept the assembly's voted today. He cited His Majesty the King's statement to a gathering of birthday well-wishers on Wednesday that all should compromise to avoid bloodshed.

Prime Minister on Draft Constitution's Approval

BK0712143691 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1250 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The National Legislative Assembly [NLA] held a special session today to consider the draft constitution in the third reading. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun granted an interview to a group of newsmen. He declined comment when asked about the NLA president's announcement to the session that some six million people signed in support of the draft constitution. However, the prime minister said that any move to initiate an amendment to the constitution, wh[illegible] has already passed its third reading, will have to [illegible]de through parliament. He said it is the duty of e[illegible]ne now to oversee the election and make it fair and honest.

[Begin recording] [Anan] I think election will be held sometime around March.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Interior Ministry said it would be ready around 8 March.

[Anan] Well, it would take place whenever the Interior Ministry says. There is no problem with that.

[Correspondent] Many people have said that they accept the content of the constitution, but still feel that something has been going on which is aimed at perpetuating the present power structure. In this connection, do you have any worries about holding an election?

[Anan] I have no worries. My responsibility will be over soon.

[Correspondent] Well, at least you should guarantee that the election is honest and fair.

[Anan] Well, all of you will also have to help us in overseeing the election to make it fair and honest. [end recording]

NPKC Confirms Dissolution Following Elections

BK0912004591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] The National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] will be dissolved after an elected government is formed, NPKC vice-chairman ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday.

He denied that the NPKC intends to perpetuate its power through the appointment of senators to oversee the performance of the government.

"This is not true. The NPKC does not intend to stay in power for ever but will return power (to the people) as quickly as possible," ACM Kaset said.

He said senators will be chosen from recognised people in all professions who will work for the good of the country. The senators will help the stability of the country.

NPKC Chairman Fears Revenge After Election

BK0912005591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Dec 91 p A1

[Text] National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong voiced concern yesterday that politicians might "seek revenge" against the NPKC when it hands over power to the next elected government.

"We hope (for) nothing but to leave power peacefully," Sunthon said. "When they get power, they'd better not seek revenge on us." Sunthon said the NPKC "will not tolerate being avenged" but he did not elaborate.

Sunthon repeated that he was certain that politicans elected at the next general election would seek revenge on the NPKC.

Asked how the NPKC would protect itself, Sunthon said: "We are sincere and our sincerity will enable us to defend ourselves." Sunthon said: "I've done nothing to destroy my brothers," but he would not say whom he meant by "brothers."

When asked if the NPKC would be more careful, he said the NPKC had always been "on alert."

The ex-supreme commander reiterated that the military leaders would return to their barracks after handing over power to elected politicians.

National Assembly Members Explain Dissenting Vote

BK0812035091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] The seven National Assembly members who voted against the draft constitution yesterday said they did so because the draft is not democratic enough, and three of them vowed to continue fighting for amendments to the charter.

But two of them, however, admitted that efforts to push for changes to the contents of the charter would be very difficult.

The draft constitution passed the final reading in the national Assembly with a supporting vote of 262 against seven. Four assembly members abstained while 15 others were absent.

The seven assemblymen who voted against the draft charter were Chusak Sirinin, Phiya Chakkapak, Bunyong Wathanaphong, Udomsuk Uchin, Gen Siri Thiwaphan, Samran Thawarayusm and Soemsak Karun.

Six of them are members of the New Aspiration Party [NAP], one of the most outspoken groups against the charter, and Chusak, the rector of Ramkhamhaeng University, is a respected academic.

Siri, the former commander of the Third Army Region, said although the draft constitution has sailed through the final reading, he will fight on for amendments to make it as democratic as possible.

He said after the election, he will persuade MPs to join forces in pushing for the constitution amendments.

"We will have to continue proceeding on the democratic path and won't let any people exercise dictatorial power to oppress the people," he said.

Udomsuk, a leading businessman and a former MP, expressed doubt on the merits of the contents of the charter although he said he thought that the passage of the constitution would lead to an improvement in the country's economy.

"We all know whether the contents of the charter, in reality, are good for us or not," he said sarcastically.

Bunyong, an ex-MP of Uttaradit province, said although his vote against the draft charter was useless in the National Asembly, he will struggle for the constitution amendment after the poll.

The asemblyman said his major concern is that the decisive power the constitution gives to the Senate, whose members will be picked by the military junta, would threaten the stability of the government after the election.

"We will have an elected government under the constitution but, you know, the people who will gain control over the administration are not those whom we will elect," he said.

Bunyong added that he expected the passage of the draft constitution to adversely affect foreign investment in Thailand because the charter cannot guarantee the government's stability.

Chusak, meanwhile, said as one of the academics who had consistently opposed the draft charter, he had to vote against it. But the lecturer said he accepted the passage of the constitution and did not feel bad about it.

"The passage of the draft constitution may have come as no surprise to many people. However, the charter can be amended later," he said.

Chusak said he will continue to support the opposition movement against the charter by resorting to peaceful means.

"The (anti-charter) campaign must go on until we get the best from what we want," he said.

Phiya, former director of the National Intelligence Agency and an ex-senator, said he had to vote against the draft constitution because it was "undemocratic."

The undemocratic points in the charter include the Senate's power to vote in a no-confidence debate against the government and to deliberate on royal decrees with MPs, he said.

Phiya said although the amendment of the charter after the poll was possible, it would be a very difficult task.

"Unless there is very strong unity among the MPs, the amendment will be hard to do," he said.

Samran, former secretary general of the Civil Service Commission, said he voted against the constitution because it apparently gives decisive power to a particular group and minimizes the significance of MPs, who are the people's real representatives.

"By empowering senators to vote in a censure debate against Cabinet ministers, the constitution is undemocratic and I cannot accept it," he said.

Any effort to amend the constitution after the election will be very difficult regarding the legal conditions on the voting by the senators and MPs as specified in the charter. And even if the amendment would take place, it would take a long time, Samran said.

"People will have to live in despair under the undemocratic charter for years and the amendment may never come about," he said.

Soemsak, a former MP of Rayong province and now an NAP member, said he will stick to his party's stand against the "undemocratic" charter.

"This constitution does not give full administrative power to the people's representatives but instead gives it to those who are not elected," he said.

Opponents Discuss Strategy To Amend Constitution

BK0812011491 Bangkok THE NATION in English
8 Dec 91 p A1-A2

[Text] The Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity parties yesterday vowed not to give up their efforts after the next election to amend the constitution—passed by an overwhelming majority in the National Assembly yesterday—even though doubts have surfaced that they will succeed.

The three opponents to the constitution also painted a gloomy picture of Thai politics after the poll, saying the charter will allow the military to retain political power through the Senate.

A total of 262 National Assembly members yesterday voted for the charter in the final reading, while seven were against it and four abstained. Fifteen others were absent from the parliament.

The New Aspiration Party (NAP), another major force in the pro-democracy campaign for the rejection of the draft constitution, also reaffirmed its intention to continue the fight for a democratic charter, but appeared to be distancing itself from the others. NAP secretary general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri told THE NATION that whether the party would cooperate with others in a push for post-poll charter amendments had yet to be discussed.

NAP and Phalang Tham, the most radical forces in the anti-charter campaign, will not boycott the election. Charter Scrutinizing Committee Chairman Osot Kosin yesterday challenged the two parties not to take part in the election if they were serious about the charter being unacceptable.

Political analysts said that without strong public support for the post-election amendments and a prime minister who would listen to public opinion, prospects for change are dim given that "proxy political parties" would be pre-occupied with joining the new government. Added to this would be strong doubts that the Senate would curb its own transitional powers to participate in voting on no-confidence motions and royal decrees.

Pro-air force Samakkhi Tham Party members told THE NATION that the party would primarily push for amending the electoral system to pave the way for the introduction of a party-slate system. The Social Action Party [SAP], meanwhile, has been quiet on the issue but observers pointed to the fact that SAP leader Montri Phongphanit was ready to compromise with the military as he is still on the list of politicians being investigated for being "unusually rich" and because he has allowed Lt Gen Kasem Kraisant, a close friend of Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, to take over the party secretary general's post.

Kasem yesterday declined to comment, saying he had yet to resign from the military. He also said the party was keeping its options open as to which political camp it would join after the poll.

Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong said on Friday night that all MPs [members of parliament] would want to amend the constitution to remove the clauses which promote "dictatorship", but he was ambiguous on the specific clauses which should be dropped and on the exact position of his party. He is known to be close to Air Force Commander in Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin.

"Public opinion after the poll and the stand of the new prime minister would be the decisive factors and the only hope of prompting the generals to take the opportunity of honorably dismounting from the back of the tiger. And the Senate would listen to the generals," one political analyst commented.

National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin said after the passage of the constitution that he would present the legislation to His Majesty the King for royal endorsement tomorrow afternoon.

Ukrit yesterday claimed that he had received a list containing about two million signatures expressing support for the draft from First Army Region Commander Lt Gen Phaibun Hongsinlak, and four million more from Chaiwat Hutacharoen, the deputy permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry in charge of security affairs. He claimed that the list of people opposed to the draft totalled only about 2,000.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai said an amendment to the constitution right after the general election was not a "pipe dream".

He urged all parties to make a formal pledge that they would join forces to push for amendments to the constitution on the first occasion they get after the election.

"Immediately after the poll, all parties, be they in government or opposition, should support moves to amend the constitution," he said, pointing out that a total of 120 MPs can initiate a motion for amendments, which would require the support of at least 316 parliamentarians. A total of 360 MPs will be eleced, plus 270 appointed senators.

Chuan also held out the possibility that some senators might join the amendment crusade.

Two major points should be amended: the House speaker should replace his Senate counterpart as Parliament president and the transitional powers of the Senate to control the government should be dropped, he said.

Chuan said the Senate should represent qualified representatives from an array of professional and occupational groups and adopt primarily the role of a legislation-screening body. He also proposed that the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee should take the lead in coordinating the efforts of the parties towards this goal.

Committee deputy chairman Gothom Arya responded positively to Chuan's call but said that the group was too small to lead the parties.

"Political parties should take the lead, but if they don't mind we would coordinate their efforts," he said.

But Phalang Tham Party leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang predicted that the next government would be hit by political storms and that another coup would be inevitable as a result of the undemocratic charter.

Chamlong said amending the constitution after the polls would be difficult because the 360 MPs would be split. Some of them would let down the people and defect to the side of the Senate which he described as the political party of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC).

But Chamlong pledged that his party would join the efforts for the earliest possible amendments to the constitution, overwhelming supported by the National Assembly in the final reading yesterday.

Chamlong also urged the National Assembly members to follow through their with [as published] promise to amend the charter after the election if they were appointed to the Senate.

The Phalang Tham Party leader, who was one of the most active campaigners for the rejection of the draft, described the prospects for Thai politics ahead as "totally gloomy".

He said his party remained undecided on whether to join the next government, which would need the support of the Senate that will be selected by NPKC Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong.

His deputy, Suthep Atthakon, reaffirmed the party's vow to seek post-election amendments, but said that this could probably be achieved only by a government of "good guys".

Despite yesterday's outcome, Suthep said his party would not give up its fight for democracy. "We will work hard to prepare ourselves for the election and for the campaign for a democratic charter," he said.

Suthep said that achieving swift amendments to the constitution would be difficult because the next government would need the Senate to stay in power.

"I pin my hopes on popular support for the changes," he said, adding that "perhaps the amendments can be achieved by an administration of 'good guys'."

The present government was a good example, he said. At first the government's relations with the military were smooth, but after a while "the administration felt frustrated as a result of coming under outside pressure," he pointed out.

He said the first government after the poll must be obedient, at least in the initial period, otherwise it would not be able to survive.

Suthep said the Phalang Tham Party must think seriously if it was courted to become part of the next administration.

"It would be a tough question. We would have to see who would be our partners and what contributions our party could make to the nation inside the government," he said.

Solidarity secretary general Uthai Phimchaichon also predicted that the next government would be "an absolute parliamentary dictatorship" because the Senate would decide which party would be the core of the new coalition government and who would become the next prime minister.

"I was so sad and gloomy to see the draft sail through the assembly today and I am afraid that political turmoil will follow an administration that is under the thumb of the present power holders," he said.

Uthai said he was not sure that all parties would stand as one in seeking post-election amendments to the constitution because they would be split in the struggle to join the next government.

"How many MPs would be left who would still be determined to take the constitutional amendment seriously?" he said.

He described the Democrat Party's call for the post-election charter amendment as only a "gimmick".

"I don't know how the Democrat Party would explain it to the public, when the time comes, and the amendment was not within reach," he said.

But he said that his party would certainly place an immediate charter amendment on the agenda of its election platform.

The New Aspiration Party, meanwhile, reaffirmed its stand to continue the fight for a democratic constitution but was ambiguous about whether it would join with the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee and other political parties over their pledge to push for amendments after the election.

NAP secretary general Sqn Ldr Prasong told THE NATION that how the party would go about achieving the goal was still a question to be resolved within the party.

"I cannot say anything right now on the means to achieve it," he said.

Asked if the party would cooperate with the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee and other parties, Prasong said that this issue had yet to be discussed by the party. For now, he said, what he could say was that the party would not give up its fight for democracy.

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet, who was on the campaign trail in Khon Kaen yesterday, said that all parties, in government or opposition, must unite to amend the constitution after the polls.

Samak said that successful amendments to the constitutaion after the election cannot be ruled out because at heart all MPs wanted it.

He said if the NPKC blocked the charter amendments, then it should feel ashamed.

Meanwhile, a goup of Chiang Mai University student activists said they were "deeply sorry" on learning that the university rector, Kasem Watthanachai, voted for the constitution despite the fact that he promised earlier he would vote against the charter.

Chat Thai Leader on Amending New Constitution

BK0912010191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong says his party will cooperate with other political parties to amend controversial clauses in the Constitution.

Commenting on a call for all parties to work together in amending the charter after the general election, expected in March, ACM Sombun said yesterday there should be no problem with this sicne everyone concerned has the same aim.

ACM Sombun said he must consult his party members about a suggestion that all parties sign a pledge to remove "undemocratic" clauses, particularly the provisional clause. He thinks they will all have a similar stand on the issue.

"This is because when the majority of people want something we have to work in accordance with the democratic system because the people own the country. There won't be any problems with this, you can rest easy."

He said he has not yet decided whether to stand in the general election and is waiting for a party decision. However, according to terms set out in the charter he can contest a seat in Bangkok, Samut Prakan or Samut Sakon. Chat Thai is preparing its election candidates and all its members are united behind its policies.

ACM Sombun said he met former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan last Saturday and learned that the ex-premier will go to his Nakhon Ratchasima constituency to attend a party in his honour next Saturday.

"It will be a meeting between the people and Gen Cahtchai as a former MP of Nakhon Ratchasima. But I don't know whether Gen Chatchai will decide to run again in the election. It's his right," he said.

Commerce Minister Sees Lower Prices After VAT

BK0712020391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Dec 91 p A2

[Excerpts] Consumers are expected to gain from lower prices from 33 products essential for daily life when the value-added tax [VAT] is introduced on Jan 1, 1992, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday.

Only 7 products on the 44-item list of essential products will become more expensive as a result of replacing the business tax with the 7 per cent VAT, the minister said after a meeting of a government committee which has been monitoring prices of necessary consumer goods.

He said the retail prices of four items on the so-called key list of consumer goods would remain unchanged despite the inroduction of VAT. [passage omitted]

It is estimated that the prices of electrical appliances and important automotive products will decline by 5-11 per cent, while 7 types of building materials, motor oil, water pumps will also become cheaper.

Although all 44 items on the key list are subject to VAT, 22 agricultural products and certain services are exempted from the new tax, meaning that their prices will not be affected. Among these products and services are farm produce, farm equipemnt, meat and related products, newspapers, textbooks, school fees, medical fees, transport fees and rental fees.

The Internal Trade and Revenue departments will shortly conduct a study to assess the VAT impact on 11 other items on the country's consumer price index. These items include telephone and telegraph charges, movie tickers, hotel room bills, dress-making fees, laundry fees and haircut fees.

Amaret said a subcommittee will also be set up with private sector represenatives to monitor prices.

Vietnam

NHAN DAN Denounces U.S. Attitude on MIA's

BK0812082391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 8 Dec 91

[NHAN DAN 7 December commentary by Tu Thinh: "The United States Should End Its Irrational Attitude to the MIA Issue"]

[Text] Recently, the issue of Americans missing in action [MIA] has popped up again among U.S. public opinion. In the U.S. Congress, many officials have testified on this issue at a time when joint U.S.-Vietnamese search teams are working intensively to excavate former crash sites of U.S. aircraft in search for the remains of U.S. pilots.

Vietnam's unswerving stand is that, as the MIA issue is a purely humanitarian one, it should not be linked with any political conditions, especially with the normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations. It is necessary to say that Vietnam has unilaterally solved the MIA issue without demanding any conditions from the U.S. side.

Proceeding from its tradition of humanity, Vietnam, in April 1974 turned over the first batch of MIA remains to the U.S. side. Thus far, the Vietnamese side has turned over to the U.S. side 458 sets of MIA remains and information concerning 59 cases of confirmed deaths. After the agreement on the MIA issue was reached between Vietnam and the United States in August 1987, the two sides have conducted 15 joint search operations with special attention given to 119 cases involving discrepancies. Thanks to this joint effort, 22 sets of remains were found, the U.S. side admitted it has information affirming deaths in 40 more cases, and the remaining 57 cases were inconclusive pending further search efforts.

Noteworthy is that even in the difficult situation left over by the consequences of war, the Vietnamese side has mobilized 600,000 workdays toward unilateral searches or joint searches with the U.S. side. The Vietnamese Government has permitted U.S. search teams to visit 30 provinces—repeat visits in some provinces—in Vietnam to carry out their work.

It may be said that although the Vietnamese are victims of the war triggered by the United States, they have made utmost efforts concerning the MIA issue, in a spirit of humanity and sympathy with the families of American MIAs, and in their friendship toward the American people.

What is the U.S. administration's attitude toward this issue?

Right from the beginning, the U.S. side did not consider the MIA issue a humanitarian one. It has linked this issue with the normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations, making it one of many other political conditions. It is indeed the U.S. side that has caused setbacks in the settlement of this issue.

As early as 1980, Vietnam invited the United States to come for joint searches, but the latter rejected this proposal. In 1987, under pressure from American public opinion, Washington sent General John Vessey to Vietnam, and he was able to reach an agreement with Vietnam on the MIA issue in a humanitarian spirit. Since then the United States has begun to cooperate with Vietnam in searching for American MIAs. The two sides have held joint meetings, and have shared investigation and identification techniques. The United States has also agreed to pay the cost of survey and excavation. As a result, joint searches in the past several years have brought about practical results.

Regrettably, in recent days, some statements made by the U.S. side have damaged the atmosphere of cooperation on this issue. Some members of the U.S. Congress demand that they be allowed to visit any prison in Vietnam at any time regardless of Vietnam's sovereignty. The U.S. Secretary of Defense even linkened the MIA search mechanism to the Gulf War operational command. This makes some people question whether the MIA issue is a humanitarian issue or an opportunity for the U.S. to undertake some dark schemes against Vietnam. Recently, a high-ranking U.S. official urged a third country not to give formal development aid to Vietnam until the complete settlement of the MIA issue.

Although the U.S. side has admitted that there is no evidence of prisoners of war still alive in the Indochinese War—as mentioned in a report of the Presidential committee made public by the White House on 23 March 1977—and that the joint searches have confirmed this fact, some U.S. circles still persist in their view that some American POWs are still in Vietnam.

These U.S. acts show that the United States has treated the MIA issue in defiance of its agreement reached with Vietnam that this issue is a purely humanitarian one. Public opinion can see clearly that the United States' maintenance of its economic embargo against Vietnam while the latter is actively cooperating in the search for MIA is immoral.

According to REUTER, many foreign diplomats are of the view that the U.S. road map is illogical because it advocates linking U.S.-Vietnamese relations with all sorts of conditions and prolongs the MIA issue, a problem which Vietnam has made utmost efforts to resolve. If the United States wishes to demonstrate to the U.S. public its efforts in resolving the MIA issue, it should realize that the Vietnamese people—like the American people—are very sensitive to the issue of their own people missing in action. Having more than 300,000 of their compatriots still unaccounted for in the war triggered by the United States, the Vietnamese people are fully entitled to demand U.S. contributions to this purely humanitarian issue. It is necessary to say that since 1987, the U.S. has committed itself to contributing to this humanitarian work, yet its contribution has been minimal and slow.

To achieve cooperation in effectively resolving the MIA issue, it needs goodwill and mutual trust from both sides in a humanitarian spirit.

Public opinion holds that if the United States lifts its trade embargo against Vietnam and normalizes its relations with this country, cooperation in resolving the MIA issue will be more favorable and more fruitful.

Hanoi Reports on Controversial MIA Cases

BK0912130991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Radio report on some controversial MIA cases]

[Text] Recently, part of the American public has raised doubt about some discrepancy cases in the process of seeking American servicemen unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, including the case of Major Pilot John Robertson. Robertson's aircraft was shot down by Vietnam's MiG fighter on September 16th, 1966 over (? Truong Thon) hamlet, Cong Hoa village, Chi Linh District, Hai Hung Province, some 70 kilometers northeast of Hanoi.

The U.S. has proposed a joint excavation at the crash site. A joint Vietnamese-American searching team started excavating that site on November 18th and it is about to finish on December 11th. A group of foreign correspondents representing the American TV network CBS, the Voice of America [VOA], BOSTON GLOBE newspaper, British news agency REUTER, (?NHK) Television Company of Japan, etc. and journalists representing Vietnam's mass media have come to the area to cover the joint operation there.

Our radio correspondent had interviewed several members of the joint searching team and local witnesses.

Mr. Pham Tao, head of the Vietnamese excavating group at Cong Hoa village, said: Vietnam has made thorough preparations for joint excavations. Local people have agreed to have their fruit trees cut down and gardens razed. Each day, more than 30 local people are involved in the excavating work, not to mention a great number of militiamen, soldiers, and policemen engaged in the round-the-clock protection of the site.

American members of the joint team as well as foreign journalists think highly of the good preparations and cooperation provided by the Vietnamese side, especially the local people.

Work is going on well and some Americans keep singing while digging. Doctor Sarah Collins, a physical anthropologist of the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory who is now in Vietnam for the eighth time, highly appreciates the cooperation from the Vietnamese side.

[Begin Doctor Sarah Collins recording] We appreciate the cooperation provided by the local people; I think that the work has gone very well. Mr. Dich, who is the head of the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Personnel, and Mr. Thieu, one of his deputies, have been working with us and they are working very hard and they made good preparations for the site. So, I think the work is going on and we hope to be done. [end recording]

On the outcome of the joint excavation, Mr. Ho Xuan Dich, director of Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Personnel, said evidence obtained at the crash site proved that Robertson was already dead. The seeking of missing American servicemen [words indistinct] searching for their remains. He said:

[Begin Ho Xuan Dich recording speaking in Vietnamese fading into English translation] In the process of excavating, we have found proof such as pilot's helmet, pieces of aircraft wreckage, some bones and teeth proving that the pilot is dead. The U.S. has agreed with us and what should be done now is to continue searching for his remains. [end recording]

The excavating site now is a garden and used to be the house of Mr. Nguyen Van Can, 80 years old. Robertson's crashed plane destroyed the seven-room thatched house. During the war, two of his sons were killed in action and still unaccounted for. Yet, he is willing to let the joint searching team to dig his garden and allows his younger son to join the excavation work. Asked to comment on this, he said:

[Begin recording by Nguyen Van Can's son speaking in Vietnamese fading into English translation] This is in the interest of the whole nation, which is not confined to a single household at all. Gain and loss are common practice during the war. [end recording]

So far, Vietnam has returned to the U.S. side 438 sets of remains of American servicemen, not to mention 59 cases considered as impossible-to-get remains. Vietnam has allowed the establishment of the American Missing in Action Office in Hanoi. Excavations and investigations have been carried out in more than 30 provinces thoroughout the country involving more than 600,000 Vietnamese workhands and Vietnam is doing all it can to help solve this humanitarian issue as soon as possible.

Where has the MIA issue originated from? There is no doubt about that; and what is the U.S. attitude toward 300,000 Vietnamese still unaccounted for from the war?

Hanoi Radio Notes Le Mai's AFP Interview

BK0712103891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Vietnamese and U.S. experts will hold a series of meetings starting this month to tackle the remaining obstacles to normal relations between the two countries. This was said by Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai in an interview with AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS] on Friday.

He added: The talks on missing U.S. servicemen and U.S. humanitarian aid to Vietnam are some of the specific steps toward normalization. He also made known that U.S. President George Bush's Special Envoy John Vessey would visit Vietnam in the second half of December to follow up on the implementation of an agreement he reached in September on U.S.-Vietnamese cooperation in accounting for MIAs.

U.S. experts will visit around the same time to discuss details of the agreement, including the request of U.S. researchers in Vietnam for a helicopter.

Foreign Minister Congratulates New UN Chief

BK0712160691 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam today congratulated Doctor Boutros Btutros Ghali, deputy prime minister of Egypt, on his election as general secretary of the United Nations. In his congratulatory message, Minister Cam expressed his belief that the new UN general secretary would make great contributions to the common cause of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, and fulfill his important task assigned by the international community.

'I affirm the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's support to you in your capacity as UN secretary general,' said Minister Cam, 'and I hope to promote the UN-Vietnamese cooperation to contribute to peace, cooperation and development in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.'

New Envoy Holds Talks With Cambodia's Chea Sim

BK0912113991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] This morning, 7 December, comrade Tran Huy Chuong, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], called on His Excellency Chea Sim, president of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia. Ambassador Tran Huy Chuong conveyed to His Excellency Chea Sim the kind regards of General Secretary Do Muoi, Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, and other Vietnamese party and state leaders.

The ambassador expressed delight at and highly appraised the great achievements of the Cambodian people during the past 13 years under the leadership of the CPP leadership. He pledged that he will do his best to contribute to consolidating and strengthening the solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia.

President Chea Sim warmly welcomed ambassador Tran Huy Chuong and wished him success in performing his duty in Cambodia. On this occasion, President Chea Sim recalled the tradition of solidarity and mutual assistance between the two nations in the struggle against French colonialism and U.S. imperialism for each country's independence and freedom, especially support and mutual assistance shared by the two nations during the past several years. He thanked the Vietnamese party, Government, and people for their noble spiritual and material support for the Cambodian people's just struggle.

President Chea Sim reasserted the policy of the CPP and the government of the State of Cambodia to maintain and develop the solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries. He also briefed ambassador Tran Huy Chuong on the efforts of the Cambodian party and Government in implementing the Paris peace accord in the spirit of national reconcilliation to bring about real peace for the construction and development of the Cambodian nation.

Nguyen Khanh at Asia-Pacific Health Conference

BK0712101991 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] On 2 December 1991, the 17th Conference of the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health was held in Hanoi. The conference was attended by delegates from 10 countries, including Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, America, and Vietnam.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers addressed the conference. Representatives of WHO, UNICEF, UNDP [United Nations Development Programs], Save The Children Fund of England, and many SRV ministries and offices also attended the conference.

Reporting on the development of public health in Vietnam, Minister of Health Pham Song said that since the government was formed, the health service in Vietnam has set public health targets, but Vietnam has not been able to improve the health community service as much as it wants to. At the moment, Vietnam is changing from a health service that is totally subsidized to one which is a government-assisted community health service combined with private medical practices. Therefore, some new problems have arisen and there are some issues on which Vietnam can cooperate with the consortium.

The Vietnam health service signed with the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health a cooperative agreement for development and training in public health.

226 Refugees Return From Hong Kong Camps 1 Dec

BK0912092091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] A group of 226 Vietnamese refugees has come to Vietnam on 1 December under the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] Volunteer Repatriation Program. This brings the total volunteer repatriates to 6,617 in 1991.

Hong Kong sources reported that there remains some 60,000 Vietnamese refugees living there.

Plight of 'Voluntary Repatriates' Chronicled

BK0812081691 Hanoi VNA in English 0555 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 8—Due to family troubles, Nguyen Thi Minh and Do Van Hanh ran away to Hong Kong. In the refugee camp, they at once saw they had made a mistake. "We escaped death crossing the high seas", said Minh, who left behind her husband and two children. "Like other voluntary repatriates, I'm happy to rejoin my family and very lucky to receive assistance in stabilising my life and to be trained in this centre". Minh and Hanh are attending a UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees]-funded tailoring course intended exclusively for repatriates, organised by the Centre for Social Labour Service in the city of Haiphong. The centre is now [passage indistinct].

More on Leaders Greeting Lao National Day

BK0612150591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] On 1 December 1991, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly sent the following joint message of greetings to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of Laos; Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]:

On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the founding of the LPDR, we would like to extend to you and through you to the LPRP Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly, the LPDR Government, and the entire fraternal multiethnic people of Laos our heartfelt sentiments and our warmest greetings.

The victory of the Lao Revolution and the founding of the LPDR are important events, which have ushered in a new era for a better-off Laos—the era of a peaceful, independent, united, democratic, and prosperous Laos.

Over the past 16 years, under the correct leadership of the LPRP headed by esteemed Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee, the fraternal multiethnic Lao people have brought about many great, multifaceted achievements in national defense and construction, in economic, cultural, and social development, and in a constant improvement of the people's well-being. Especially, in recent years, in the light of the resolutions of the Fourth and Fifth LPRP congresses, the Lao people have gained many initial yet important successes in their comprehensive reform. The prestige and position of the LPDR have been increasingly improved in the world arena.

The fine success of the Fifth LPRP Congress held early this year is all the more reflective of the strong unity and the high determination of the entire party and people of Laos to continue to move the Lao Revolutionary undertaking forward.

The Vietnamese people are very impressed with these great achievements and sincerely wish the Lao people new, ever-greater achievements in the process of reform and in the implementation of the variou s resolutions of the Fifth LPRP Congress.

We are very pleased to note that the special relations of friendship and solidarity as well as the all-around cooperation between Vietnam and Laos have constantly been strengthened and steadily developed.

In compliance with the teachings of great President Ho Chi Minh and those agreements reached between the party and state leaders of the two countries during the recent official friendship visit to Vietnam of Chairman Kaysone Phonvihan, the Vietnamese people pledge to do all they can to constantly consolidate and develop these relations for the sake of each country's national construction and defense, and in the interest of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region and the world.

On this occasion, we would like to extend the Vietnamese people's sincere and deepest gratitude to the party, the government, and the multiethnic people of Laos for having reserved for the Vietnamese people's revolutionary undertaking their wholehearted support and valuable assistance.

May the special relations of friendship and solidarity and the all-around cooperation between Vietnam and Laos be constantly consolidated and satisfactorily developed. We wish you comrades good health and more achievements in your lofty mandate.

On this occasion, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam also sent a message of greetings to his Lao counterpart, Phoun Sipaseuth.

Lao Envoy's Hanoi Radio National Day Statement

BK0712123391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Statement by Lao Ambassador to Vietnam Khamphet Phengmeuang to Voice of Vietnam Radio listeners on the occasion of Laos' 16th national day—recorded in Lao, fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] "Dear comrades and friends: First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the SRV Radio Broadcasting Station for having given me the cooperation I need and creating the conditions for me to speak on the occasion of the celebration of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's [LPDR] 16th National Day, 12 December.

"Over the years, despite the fact that the situation in the world and in the region has undergone complex changes, coupled with countless socioeconomic difficulties now being encountered by the country, our LPDR has gained many important achievements in all respects—firmly safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, and the new regime, preserving its political stability, and firmly maintaining its security and its social order and safety, thus ensuring the advance of the country along its pre-defined direction.

"Being treated equally, the multiethnic people of Laos have been united and attached, and have pooled their energy and minds in defending and building their homeland. The people's democratic regime has been gradually consolidated and perfected. Its foreign policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation and its efforts to broaden economic cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit have created favorable diplomatic conditions for the multiethnic people of Laos to carry out national defense and construction while making positive contributions to the movement for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress."

At present, the Lao people are implementing the resolution of the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and have achieved initial, encouraging successes. In mid-August 1991, the country promulgated the first constitution of the people's democratic regime. This was an event of historic importance. Many great successes achieved by the country in various fields are the fruit of the untiring efforts of the entire party, army, and people of Laos. "They are also the fruit of the valuable assistance given by various fraternal and friendly countries and international organizations, especially by the SRV."

"In passing, on behalf of the LPDR Embassy in the SRV, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the party, the state, and the fraternal people of Vietnam for having given their invaluable assistance to our Lao people.

"Dear comrades and friends, the existing friendly relationship and the special solidarity between Laos and Vietnam constitute an indispensable objective factor for achieving the profound and strategic belief of great President Ho Chi Minh. This relationship has been tested by various generations through many stages of the revolutionary struggle and has been constantly consolidated and developed. This is one of the factors deciding the survival and development of both countries."

During the Octocber 1991 visit to Vietnam of a high-level Lao party delegation led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the party and president of the LPDR, the two countries' leaders affirmed: "Now more than ever before, efforts should be made to develop the special solidarity and the all-round cooperation between our two countries more extensively, with new quality and realistic results, in keeping with the new mechanism of mutual support and mutual assistance. This is necessary if we are to create an integrated strength to meet the requirements arising from the cause of national defense and construction in each of our countries. This fact has served as a reassertion of our loyalty to the advice of President Ho Chi Minh in keeping with the resolution of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress and the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress. It has also met the ardent desire of the two nations for making their special solidarity as ever-lasting as the great Truong Son Mountain Range and as deep as the Red or the Mekong River."

Despite the difficulties, we are firmly convinced that the Vietnamese people will be able to score glorious successes in their renovation undertaking.

"May the heroic Vietnamese people under the clearsighted leadership of the CPV led by esteemed Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi score new successes in the cause of building and defending their socialist fatherland.

"The special relationship and the all-around cooperation between Laos and Vietnam will last forever."

Vice-Chairman Tran Duc Long Meets ROK Guests

BK0712162591 Hanoi VNA in English 1307 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 7—Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong received here on Dec. 6 a South Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation led by its Vice-President Cha Sang Pil and President of the Daewoo group Young Suk Yoon. Also present at the reception was Ms. Pham Chi Lan, deputy secretary-general of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Vice-Chairman Tran Duc Luong welcomed the South Korean guests' visit as a manifestation of their interest in the economic and trade cooperation between Vietnam and [word indistinct]. He stressed that now Vietnam has good conditions and opportunities for expanding its economic and trade cooperation with other countries, especially those in the region. He also expressed the hope that the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its South Korean counterpart would act as a bridge between producers and businessmen of Vietnam and South Korea.

For their parts, Mr. Cha Sangi Pil and Mr. Young Suk Yoon expressed their hope for further development of the Vietnam-South Korea cooperation. While here, the guests had a working session with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

They are exprected to leave today, concluding their 7-day visit to Vietnam.

Five-Year Trade Accord Signed With North Korea

BK0712154791 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 7—Vietnam and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday signed a five-(year trade) and payment agreement.

The signing took place during a visit to the DPRK from Nov 30 to Dec 6 by a delegation of the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism led by Vice Minister Le Kim Lang.

While in the DPRK the delegation was received by DPRK Deputy Prime Minister Kim Tal-hyon.

Article Reviews Economic Relations With Japan

BK0612131591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Article by Le Khiem published in NHAN DAN entitled: "SRV-Japan Economic and Commercial Relations: It Is Time To Expand"—date not given]

[Summary] "A delegation of businessmen from Osaka, Japan, has just paid a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The delegation consisted of 47 members and was led by Mr. Kezio Saji, head of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry which represents 43,000 companies in Osaka. Osaka is an important economic center and accounts for 20 percent of Japan's general income. The delegation came to Vietnam on a fact-finding mission to establish trading and investment relations between Vietnam and Osaka.

"Taking part in the delegation were managing directors and managers of many well-known corporations such as Daiwa Bank, Matsumuto, Matsushita, and (Misoyuwai) coorporations."

Regarding the significance of the delegation's Vietnam visit, Mr. (Toshio Oda), general director of (Misoyuwai) company—which has had a representative office in

Hanoi for many years—said that there have been many Japanese economic delegations visiting Vietnam but the Osaka delegation is a very important one because of the participation of many leading Japanese businessmen. They came to Vietnam to establish business relations, not just to study the general situation.

"After arriving in Hanoi, the Osaka delegation signed a cooperation agreement between the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its Vietnam counterpart. The agreement was evaluated as an important achievement by its delegation head, Mr. (Keizo Saji)."

In the working sessions, in which there was an exchange of views, with Vietnamese delegates, the Japanese businessmen mentioned the great potential of the SRV-Japan economic relations. They said that the volume of bilateral trade had increased greatly in the last three years and it may reach one billion dollars this year, making Japan to be the biggest trading partner with Vietnam. However, the trading volume has not met the desired level of the two countries and it is not in line with the potential of the bilateral relations.

"It is regrettable that, despite its great resources of capital and technology and being a close Asian country, Japan only ranks ninth in the list of countries investing in Vietnam."

NHAN DAN on Prospects of FRG Cooperation

BK0912104191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Unattributed article in NHAN DAN: "New Prospects of Vietnam- FRG Economic Cooperation"; date not given]

[Summary] While keeping a close watch on the situation, we welcome the growth of Vietnam-FRG economic cooperation, the latest development in which was last week's successful visit to Vietnam by His Excellency P. Repnick, German state secretary of economic cooperation. Two important documents were reported to have been signed. They are:

—The minutes of government-level talks between Vietnam and the FRG on economic cooperation for 1991 and guidelines for cooperation between the two countries in the forthcoming year.

—An agreement between the two governments on technical cooperation.

Amid a fast-changing world and regional situation, Vietnam and Germany now enjoy more conditions to broaden their cooperation in various fields and under various forms on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

"In Bonn, the German Government has declared its reestablishment of relations with Vietnam and has committed itself to continuing to honor those cooperation agreements previously signed between the former German Democratic Republic [GDR] and Vietnam. It has also pointed out that Germany will continue to provide aid as an encouragement for economic reform now being carried out in Vietnam."

Prior to winding up his visit to Vietnam, Mr Repnick held a news conference. After speaking on the outcome of his visit, he said: "Both sides expressed their desire to continue their talks and to join each other in promoting in-depth relations between Germany and Vietnam. He added: We welcome Vietnam's open-door policy, especialy Vietnam's contribution to the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia. We sympathize with Vietnam and wish to make contributions to help Vietnam achieve its renovation policy. We would like to take responsibility for all those cooperative commitments made by the former GDR toward Vietnam. Through our contacts with people from various quarters in this visit, we noted with satisfaction that Vietnam respects freedom of religion. We extend our respect to Mr. Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, foreign minister; and some other leading personalities whom we have met and worked with. We think that all these are the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the reunified Germany and the SRV."

Answering questions about the situation of Vietnamese residents and hostilities toward resident aliens in Germany, Mr. Repnick said: "There are now some 12,000 Vietnamese workers and students in Germany. They have arrived here under various contracts signed between the two governments. They have the right to demand to stay in Germany until their contracts expire—until 1994 at the latest—unless they volunteer for early repatriation. Besides, there are a fairly large number of Vietnamese people who have come to Germany from other countries. It is our policy to repatriate these people at the earliest time possible. In 1991, some 250,000 foreigners have sought asylum in Germany, thus creating untold difficulties for us. As for the activities of the skin-head groups as reported by foreign press over the past few months, this is a very serious problem. We regret this phenomenon and our government has condemned it. We are taking steps to put an end to the spate of hostilities against foreigners so some six million foreigners can continue to live and work in peace beside German people."

Vo Van Kiet Receives Hungarian Envoy 7 Dec

BK0712154291 Hanoi VNA in English 1410 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 7—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet today received new Hungarian Ambassador to Vietnam Raymond Toth who paid him a courtesy visit, and conveyed a letter of Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed the initiative on the broadening of Vietnamese-Hungarian cooperation proposed in the Hungarian prime minister's letter.

He reaffirmed that the Vietnamese Government and people had always respected Vietnamese-Hungarian traditional relations and hoped to maintain and develop the friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Do Muoi Addresses Central Committee Session

BK0912080591 Hanoi VNA in English 0653 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 9—Party General Secretary Do Muoi said that the renovation of the party leadership towards the state apparatus is the most important condition for the reform of the state apparatus.

In a speech delivered at the second session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (7th Congress) on November 29 General Secretary Do Muoi said:

The present situation requires and allows us to carry out the renovation of the political system in a fundamental, systematic and steady step, in order to deepen the comprehensive and all-round renovation initiated and led by the party.

In face of the needs of the all-round renovation of the country which is hinged on economic renovation, the political system has shown many weaknesses and shortcomings. In particular, the apparatus of the party, state and mass organizations has not been able to represent and implement the right to mastery of the people, responsibilities are not clearly defined, the organization is cumbersome, the working style is not scientific, orderly, disciplined and effective. Bureaucracy and corruption are widespread and serious.

It should be stressed that the party leadership to [words indistinct] state is the fundamental condition and obective demand to ensure that the state may preserve its nature as a state of the people, by the people and for the people of which the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance is the foundation to implement the right to mastery of the people, mobilize and exploit all potentials of the country with a view to successfully building socialism.

The reform of the state apparatus must be carried out on the following principles:

—The state power is unified and indivisible but division of work and responsibilities must be clearly defined.

—To clearly define the difference between the state and state management and the economic organizations and business management. A mistake which we are correcting lies in the fact that we have not correctly applied the [word indistinct] law by creating widespread and ineffective public ownership and confusing between the state managerial function in economy with the function of direct management of production and business. We have not ensured business autonomy for the economic establishments, have maintained for too long the mechanism of economic management based on state subsidies, taking no account of the market relations. The state's weak management itself has created the loopholes for the appearance of negative acts such as smuggling, speculation, corruption, appropriation of state property and capital thus causing damage to the common interest of the country and people and disorder in economic and social activities.

In order to overcome the abovesaid weaknesses, we are building a uniform new economic structure and mechanism of management establishing a comprehensive juridical system, raising the efficiency of management in the multisector commodity economy, readjusting and rearranging the management of the state-run economic sector and creating conditions for the development of ther economic sectors in the right direction.

At the same time we are resolutely fighting against extreme and erroneous views such as shifting to indiscriminate privatization from rambling statisation, giving free rein to the market and loosening state management. To build a law-governing state, to organize and manage on the principle of democratic centralisation, to make the whole country become a unified entity, a unified market. [sentence as received]

To correctly put this principle into practice, especially in the administrative management of the state, in revising the constitution we should devise a rational structure and form of organisation so as to ensure both the unity of the state power and the dynamism and creativeness of the localities and the entire people. We have to fight effectively against both bureaucratic centralism and parochialism and anarchy.

The leaderhip of the communist party is a historic necessity in socialist country.

Renewing the party's leadership toward the government is the most important condition to reform the state apparatus in order to make this leadership as well as the state management and operations more effective, to ensure respect for the laws and the people's right to mastery. The party, as the leader of the political system, must also operate according to the constitution and law. It leads the government and not act in the latter's place.

Vo Chi Chong Chairs State Council 7 Dec Meeting

BK0812152891 Hanoi VNA in English 1431 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 8—The State Council met here on Dec.7 under the chairmanship of President Vo Chi Cong.

The State Council heard, among other things, a report by Vice-President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho on the results of the 4th summit of French-speaking countries in Paris from Nov.17-21. It welcomed the success of the summit and expressed hope for further development of friendship between Vietnam and all other French-speaking countries .

The State Council welcomed the visit to Vietnam from Nov. 16-23 by a Malaysian senatorial delegation led by speaker Dato Can Choong Tak, as a contribution to enhancing the friendship and cooperation between the two legislative bodies and peoples of Malaysia and Vietnam.

National Assembly Member Reviews Pending Issues

BK0912093791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From "Press Review" program]

[Text] Today's SAIGON GIAI PHONG newspaper reports on its front page that Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, vice chairman of the National Assembly and Ho Chi Minh City National Assembly member held a meeting with journalists about issues to be discussed at the coming session of the National Assembly.

After mentioning those issues, Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong said that whenever they see a National Assembly member, Ho Chi Minh City people always mention urgent problems that the majority of people are facing such as social policies, anticorruption, and antismuggling. She said it is possible to say that Ho Chi Minh City voters are very sensitive to those issues and the Ho Chi Minh City delegation will suggest the National Assembly discuss and find measures to solve those issues.

Answering a question about individual contributions to the National Assembly, the doctor said that: I hope public contacts will help everybody to think of ways to contribute more to the ninth National Assembly. And to fulfill requirements and tasks in the new situation, another issue which needs to be suggested to the National Assembly is sufficient measures to lower the population growth rate.

Paper Calls for Stronger Anticorruption Measures

BK0912141391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its Sunday Forum section, the paper NHAN DAN carries an article by Pham Hoai Nam entitled: Public Opinion and Solutions. The author said:

So far, radio and press reports and articles about corruption cases have had a positive impact because they contribute considerably to the current anticorruption struggle. However, due to a lack of drastic efforts to handle those corruption cases, there has developed the phenomenon of germs becoming immune to drugs. At first, corrupt officials proceeded with caution for fear of being exposed by the mass media. Now, most of them just ignore or belittle the public outcry. Worse still, knowing that they are under the umbrellas of influential forces, some of them even try counterattacks in a bid to destroy the evidence and hold on to their advantageous positions and henceforth, continue to squeeze the state budget.

At present, far from decreasing, corruption has continued to develop everywhere, mainly among state economic units. Therefore, it is sad to note that although they have devoted all their spritual and material strength to saving and developing their units and have led a pure life, refraining themselves from being tempted by money and willing to lead an ordinary life just like other cadres and office and manual workers due to the present difficult conditions facing the national economy, certain enterprise and corporation directors are suspected by the public. The end result is that they are classified under the same category as those directors who accumulate ill-gotten gains.

Therefore, for the anticorruption struggle to bear fruit, besides exposing corruption cases before the public, special importance must be attached to the handling of those cases of corruption and stern measures must be promptly adopted against them. At the same time, bold steps must be taken to commend those directors who act correctly and honestly. Furthermore, it is necessary to get rid of those entrenched prejudices and incorrect opinions likely to put the comrade directors under the same category. Only by so doing can we be sure to contain and then gradually get rid of corruption, which is an insidious evil affecting our society, in a not-too-distant future.

South Harvests 11 Million Tonnes of Rice

BK0712145891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 3 Dec 91

[Text] Farmers in Southern Vietnam have harvested about 11 million tonnes of rice, 12 percent more than last year. The per-hectare yield was 0.7 tonnes lower due to wide devastation by brown planthopper and deep flood in the Mekong River Delta which is the biggest rice producing areas in the country.

However, total output was 500,000 tonnes higher, thanks to great expansion of rice areas which now cover 3.745.000 hectares, an increase of 6.5 percent against last year.

Oil Company Signs 25 Exploration Contracts

BK0712084991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] As of the end of November, the Geophysics and Oil Exploration Service Company of the Vietnam Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has completed 25 contracts with foreign companies aimed at the exploration of oil on the Vietnamese continental shelves. The company earned a profit of more than four million dollars and paid 8.6 billion dong in tax—reaching 220 percent more than its yearly planned figure.

In order to enhance its capacity as well as its activities in oil exploration, the company invested $1.1 million to purchase a service boat with 1600 horsepower. At the same time, it also cooperated with a Norwegian company to form a limited liability joint venture working in oil exploration with a initial capital investment of $300,000.

Until the end of the year, the company will continue to execute its last five contracts and will urgently be making arrangements for the implementation of the contract for oil exploration with the Shell Corporation on the central coast in 1992.

Australia

Hawke Reshuffles Cabinet, Replaces Treasurer

BK0612040491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0356 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 6 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke replaced Treasurer John Kerin in a government reshuffle on Friday, a day after government figures showed that the economy had shrunk for the fifth successive quarter.

Kerin is the second treasurer to leave his post in six months. His predecessor, Paul Keating, resigned on June 3 after an unsuccessful attempt to replace Hawke as leader of the ruling Labor Party.

In a statement, Hawke said Kerin would become minister of transport and communications and that the treasurer's job would go to Minister of Finance Ralph Willis.

The outgoing transport minister, Kim Beazley, takes Willis' job.

In his statement, Hawke paid tribute to Kerin's "policy contribution to the government."

The Australian dollar lost more than half a U.S. cent amid speculation that Kerin would be dropped, but steadied once the news was confirmed.

The Australian currency fell from 78.15 U.S. cents at the opening to 77.57, but rallied to 77.75 in later trading.

"There was a huge sell-off across the morning," a Macquarie Bank dealer said, "but the Aussie remained firm when the news was confirmed.

"There seems to be a bit of buying interest now."

The ministers will be sworn into their new posts on Monday, Hawke said in his statement.

Dismisses Leadership Speculation

BK0812084491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, Dec 8 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke dismissed on Sunday speculation about his hold on power, maintaining he had no intention of stepping down in spite of increasingly loud calls that he do so.

Hawke told reporters here he was determined to take the ruling Labor Party to its fifth electoral victory since 1983.

"I don't feel any pressure at all (to stand down), and I won't be required to," Hawke said.

There has been increasing speculation about Hawke's hold on the premiership since his decision to sack John Kerin as treasurer on Friday and install finance minister Ralph Willis.

At the ruling Labor Party's New South Wales [NSW] state conference in Sydney over the weekend, branch president Terry Sheahan called for the reinstatement of Paul Keating, who quit as treasurer last June after a failed challenge.

NSW is Keating's powerbase and a number of delegates at the conference, none of whom would be named, tipped Hawke's demise within two weeks.

The loudest call for Hawke's resignation came from a Labor state parliamentarian in New South Wales, Paul Whelan, who was quoted by a Sunday tabloid newspaper as saying the prime minister's leadership was "dull and unimaginative."

"The time has come—it's as simple as that," Whelan was quoted as saying by the Sun-Herald, adding: "I think Paul Keating should be the prime minister of Australia immediately."

Australian financial and share markets are expected to be under pressure in trading this week as investors react to Kerin's sacking, brokers and analysts said.

They said pressure on the Hawke government to reinstate Keating would unsettle offshore investors, with Kerin's replacement Willis still an unknown quantity.

The Australian dollar stabilised in weekend trading to around 77.85 U.S. cents after bottoming at 77.14 U.S. cents Friday before a local close of 77.55 U.S. cents, its lowest local close since July.

On the stock exchange, market observers said offshore investors would lose confidence in Australia, interpreting the loss of two treasurers in a year as a sign of a government in desperation.

Prudential-Bache Securities broker Geoff Wilson said many offshore investors did not have time to react to the Canberra ructions and might decide to take profits on Monday.

Hawke dismissed calls, notably by Labor's New South Wales branch president Terry Sheahan at the party conference Saturday, for the reinstatement of Keating, who quit the cabinet last June after a failed leadership challenge.

"The position is one of Paul's making," Hawke said, adding: "He's made it quite clear what he wants to do and I accept that."

Supply Contracts To Be Negotiated With PRC

BK0812071491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 8 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 8 (AFP)—Australia has agreed to negotiate long-term contracts with China for a range of commodities, Trade Minister Neal Blewett said here Sunday.

Blewett said in a statement that the fifth meeting of the Australia-China Joint Economic Commission (JMEC), held Saturday, had agreed that negotiations should begin on supply contracts for wheat, iron ore, coking coal and manganese.

He said it was significant that the meeting, attended by China's Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Li Lanqing, had agreed to look beyond concessional finance arrangements and examine projects which could be financed by export credits or commercial loans.

"This could result in many worthwhile projects that might otherwise never get off the ground," Blewett said.

"I am pleased also that the Chinese Government agreed where possible to begin negotiating long term supply contracts for wheat, iron ore, coking coal and manganese and to examine prospects for such contracts for wood and pulp," he said.

The two governments would also undertake a study on iron and steel. Two of China's major investments in Australia are in the Channar iron ore mine and the Portland aluminium smelter.

Blewett said trade between the two countries was valued at 2.8 billion Australian dollars (2.2 billion U.S.) last year.

He welcomed indications that Beijing would consider Canberra's request for a reduction in China's wool import duty level.

Government Blocks Canadian Bid for Media Group

BK0912084091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 9 (AFP)—A takeover bid for Australia's Fairfax newspaper group by Canadian publisher Conrad Black has been blocked on the grounds of national interest, the Australian Government announced Monday.

Former treasurer John Kerin made the decision to disallow the bid last week just before being dumped from the treasury by Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Black, whose business interests include the DAILY TELEGRAPH of London, heads a consortium known as TOURANG of which Australian media tycoon Kerry Packer was a part until he quit recently.

If the bid by the Black-Packer group had been successful, it would have meant almost 90 per cent of Austalia's media owned by, or at least influenced by, its two most powerful businessmen, Packer and News Corp chief Rupert Murdoch.

A spokesman for Kerin said no objection had been raised to another overseas bid for Fairfax, by Irish businessman Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers Co.

The major domestic bidder is a Melbourne-based group known as Australian Independent Newspapers.

The Tourang bid was judged "contrary to the national interest" and rejected in accordance with the government's foreign investment guidelines.

Kerin's spokesman said the order was signed before Kerin was moved to another portfolio by Prime Minister Bob Hawke on Friday.

Fairfax, which owns three of Australia's most profitable and influential newspapers, has been in receivership for a year, owing more than 1.2 billion (930 million U.S.).

The biggest creditor is Australia's ANZ bank.

Journalists employed by the Fairfax group went on strike in October as part of a campaign to try to force the government to block the takeover by the Black-Packer group.

Eight eminent Australians including two former prime ministers, Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser, also waged their own campaign against the bid, issuing a stern warning to government about the perceived dangers.

New Zealand

Greenpeace Bid To Extradite Agent Fails

BK0612111991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Wellington, Dec 6 (AFP)—The environmental organisation Greenpeace failed Friday in a bid to force the extradition to New Zealand of a French agent now held in Switzerland on a warrant implicating him in the 1986 bombing of the Rainbow Warrior.

The agent Gerald Andries was a member of the French secret service team which blew up the Greenpeace ship in Auckland just before it was due to leave to protest French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. Andries faces murder and arson charges resulting from the death of one man in the bombing.

Both Prime Minister Jim Bolger and Foreign Minister Don McKinnon have been hinting the affair was over, leading to suggestions they would not push for extradition.

Greenpeace went to the High Court in a bid to force Justice Minister Doug Graham to extradite Andries.

It sought a court order preventing Graham from announcing or acting on a decision against extradition until a review of the decision had been heard by the court.

After a hearing in chambers Thursday Justice Rodney Gallen Friday declined the application. According to his decision, Greenpeace argued even an announcement by Graham that he would not seek extradition would be enough for Swiss authorities to free Andries, which would make any application for review of the decision pointless.

It said under the circumstances of the case, the only proper course for Graham was to seek extradition.

For Graham Solicitor-General John McGrath submitted the act was discretionary and allowed Graham to take into account non-legal factors and political considerations which were inappropriate for a court to consider.

The judge agreed, saying Greenpeace had provided no evidence at this stage Graham was using or would use his discretion improperly.

But he said the courts could be persuaded to intervene if it were later shown this had occurred.

Greenpeace spokeswoman Bunny McDiarmid said Friday the decision had stalled the fight for justice and raised questions about Graham's intentions.

"Our greatest concern is the fact that the minister chose to have the application defended.

"If he was going to extradite Andries there would have been no need to go ahead with the hearing."

Meanwhile Bolger Friday said it was nonsense to suggest France was discriminating against New Zealand meat exports because of the arrest.

Wellington's morning daily the DOMINION reported Friday that French customs had started blocking New Zealand meat exports in an effort to force the government to back-down.

Only one company, meat exporter Richmond Limited, was mentioned in the report.

Company marketing manager Chris Newton said matters at French borders had deteriorated within the past 48-hours.

But Bolger told Radio New Zealand it was absurd to link Richmond's problems with ressurection of the Rainbow Warrior affair.

"My understanding, and I talked to officials this morning, is that there has been absolutely no change in the French position associated with the arrest of Andries," he said.

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Wants New Zealand Aid for Bougainville

BK0712034491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0239 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Noumea, Dec 7 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said before leaving for New Zealand on Saturday that more aid from that country for Bougainville Island would be welcome.

Winding up a four-day trip to New Caledonia, Namaliu said he would respond favourably to a proposition by New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger to give Bougainville supplementary aid.

"We would welcome any assistance," he said.

Namaliu, who will spend a week in New Zealand, noted that a recent Red Cross mission to the island had found that "what is needed now is to increase the supply of medical provisions, as well as medical services."

He also told journalists he was confident that the Matignon accord would be applied and would benefit New Caledonia, calling the accord—which will give New Caledonians more local powers—was a great hope for the territory. [sentence as received]

On his first visit here, he also said he hoped relations between his country and New Caledonia would improve, especially in the domains of education, agriculture, mines and cultural affairs.

During his four-day visit, Namaliu met key political leaders and paid a visit to the northern province, which has a majority in favour of independence from France.

Vanuatu

Union of Moderate Parties To Form Government

BK0912021091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0158 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] PORT VILA, Dec 9 (AFP)—Official results of Vanuatu's general election confirmed the French-speaking Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) has won the greatest number of seats without winning an outright victory.

Results declared by electoral commission chairman Massing Lauru late on Sunday give the UMP 19 seats in the 46-seat parliament, which means that if it wants to govern it must do so in coalition with one of the minority parties.

Prime Minister Donald Kalpokas's Vanua'aku Party (VP) and the National United Party formed recently by former prime minister Walter Lini each won 10 seats.

The VP, badly fractured by years of internal feuding, had ruled since independence from colonial rule by Britain and France in 1980.

Another VP splinter, Barak Sopes's Melanesian Progressive Party (MPP), won four seats.

Parliamentary speaker Vincent Boulekone's Tan-Union, Jimmy Stevens's Nagriamel Party and the Fren Melanesian Party each won a seat.

The results were announced following a week of uncertainty and intensive maneuvering by the major parties to reach agreement on a coalition following the December 2 ballot.

Party sources say the only means by which the anglophones can continue their domination of Vanuatu politics would be reconciliation between the three former allies Kalpokas, Lini and Sope, who are now bitter opponents.

Electoral Commission chairman Masing Lauru said on Monday that any complaints of electoral irregularity should be lodged within 21 days of official publication of results.

Some parties had come to the electoral office to lodge such complaints, he said, but they had been re-directed to the Supreme Court.

"They will have to give evidence of what they allege, plus a 20,000 vatu (180 U.S. dollars) security deposit in the Supreme Court," Lauru told AFP.

No complaints have been lodged yet, Lauru said.